

The Middlebury Campus

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College builds new solar farm

By Bronwyn Oatley

On Jan. 16, Middlebury College announced its decision to build a small-scale solar farm on College property as part of its commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2016.

According to the proposal, 34 solar trackers will be placed on a 1.5 acre piece of land west of McCardell Bicentennial Hall. Partnering with local business AllEarth Renewables, the College will lease an innovative type of solar panel, designed to capture 40 percent more energy than previous models. Similar models can be found on the roofs of the Franklin Environmental Center and Farrell House on campus.

The solar trackers will utilize a GPS system and follow the sun as it moves throughout the day. The energy captured by the panels will be sent directly back onto the power grid, available for any consumer who is drawing energy from the system. AllEarth Renewables has estimated that the trackers will produce an average of 200,000 kilowatt-hours annually, enough energy to power a building the size of Battell Hall for one year.

The decision by the Board of Trustees to agree to implement the solar trackers came after persistent work by students, faculty members and alumni.

The solar initiative began the spring of 2010 when Caleb Elder '04 submitted a proposal to the College on behalf of his employer, AllEarth Renewables, a Williston, Vt., based company that produces the innovative type of solar panel. The proposal was then evaluated by students of an environmental seminar taught by Mead Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies Steve Trombulak and was resubmitted to the College at the end of the semester, proving the benefits of the initiative.

While the administration sup-

ported the initial proposal, Vermont solar legislation had not yet been finalized with respect to the fixation of the rate of return afforded to solar energy suppliers. At that time the administration decided to stall the decision until the legislative issue had been resolved.

This fall, searching for a final project to complete that, "would have an impact on the campus," a group of four sophomores from Professor of Economics Jonathan Isham's environmental economics class approached the administration. The four students, Spencer Petterson '14, Ali Rotatori '14, Camille Seyler '14 and Olivia French '14 were informed by Dave Donahue, special assistant to the president, that "a small scale solar project needed the last push."

Following a decision by legislators, the administration encouraged the students to submit a proposal outlining the benefits of the solar option. In their presentation, the students proved that the initiative would provide significant economic, social and educational benefits for the College.

Jack Byrne, director of sustainability and integration, illustrated the wide-ranging benefits of the implementation of the project.

"The solar trackers will net us \$5-10,000 per year for the next five years, and have the possibility of generating more money for the College in the future," he said. "That is significant, and in and of itself would have probably been enough for the administration [to adopt the plan], but combined with the educational opportunities it brings, the fact that it will be producing renewable energy that we will be putting into the grid and the fact that we will be supporting AllEarth

SEE SOLAR, PAGE 2

BUNKER'S FUTURE REMAINS UNCERTAIN



COURTESY: SOPHEAK CHHENG

Students danced their Friday nights away at the Bunker during the fall, but may no longer be able to enjoy the space in the coming semesters due to overcrowding and student rowdiness. See page 2 for more details.

Dorm damage shrinks in fall term

By Kyle Finck

After an unprecedented \$141,333.45 in dorm damage during the 2010-11 academic year, the College saw a 44.5 percent decrease in damage during the first semester of the current academic year, compared to the fall of 2010.

According to data released by Assistant Director of Custodial Services Linda Ross, there was a total of \$21,605.03 in damages this past fall semester. Comparatively, the College suffered \$48,550.629 during the fall of 2010.

Ross attributed the turnaround to this year's first-year class and a "phenomenal" residential life staff.

"The custodial side has connected extremely well with the residential life staff, which is something we started in the summer before school started," she said. "That plus a great first-year class is why we are seeing some improvement this year."

Dean of the College and Chief Diversity Officer Shirley Collado

also credited a new bystander intervention training program all first-year students received at the start of the year. The program teaches first-years to intervene in potentially dangerous social situations, ranging from alcohol-related behaviors and dorm damage to sexual assault and hazing.

"[First-years] heard a loud message during orientation about community, accountability and what it means to step up as a member of the student body," Collado

said.

Ross and members of facilities services met with First-Year Counselors (FYC), Resident Assistants (RA) and Commons Residential Advisors (CRA) early in the year to stress cooperation in the fight to reduce dorm damage.

The total cost of last year's damages capped a half-decade span in which dorm damage nearly tripled, from \$52,418.69 in 2006-07 to over \$140,000 five years later.

SEE DISH, PAGE 3

Fall semester residential property repair costs

217 Billable work orders were filed first semester for a total of \$21,605.

Top six building damage totals:

1. PRESCOTT (ADP) \$4025

2. PALMER \$2754

4. COFFRIN \$1091
5. 637 COLLEGE ST. \$1070
6. BATTELL (WONNACOTT) \$883

Lowest per capita damage:

BROOKER \$0.77 /RESIDENT

Top six per capita damage totals:

1. 107 SHANNON APT. A \$281 /RESIDENT

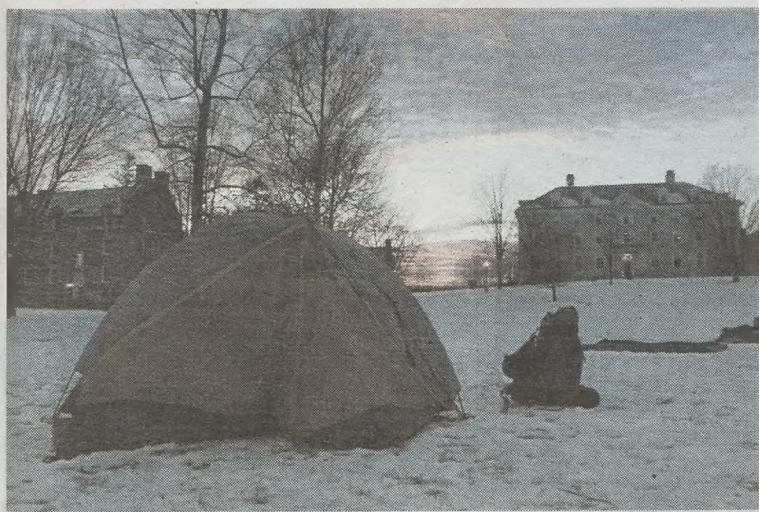
2. 637 COLLEGE ST. \$214 /RESIDENT
3. PRESCOTT (ADP) \$134 /RESIDENT

4. PALMER \$92 /RESIDENT
5. PEARY \$37 /RESIDENT
6. SPERRY \$26 /RESIDENT

STEWART \$1.32 /RESIDENT

SOURCE: LINDA ROSS, GRAPHIC BY IAN STEWART

EMBRACING THE ELEMENTS



COURTESY: JENNIFER MARKS

Teams of 10 entered a weeklong "tent city" competition on Battell Beach to see who could spend the most time outside during Get Outside Week, an initiative led by the Middlebury Mountain Club (MMC).

Stomach virus strikes Midd

By Adam Schaffer

Cases of what is believed to be gastroenteritis, or syndromes of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, swept through the College community late last week and into the weekend. While widespread — gastroenteritis is the second most common illness among American families — the illness is rarely serious and patients recover within one to two days with rest and fluids.

The greatest risk patients face is dehydration resulting from bouts of vomiting and diarrhea, which can require hospitalization for intravenous fluids to maintain hydration in severe cases.

Viral gastroenteritis is however, was not as easy to caused by four viruses — Noro-virus, Rotavirus, Enteric adenovirus and Astrovirus — the first of which is attributed to 90 percent of cases.

The conclusion that viral gastroenteritis was to blame for the outbreak of sickness was clinically based on patient symptoms, explained Director of Health Services and Physician W. Mark Peluso. Large-scale and reliable tests are not available.

The cause of the outbreak,

"At this point, we cannot attribute the current situation to a particular source."

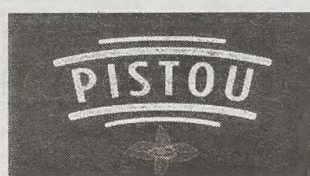
MARK PELUSO
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES

Several students questioned whether dining hall food could have been to blame, given the rapid outburst of symptoms among students. The fact that both members of the town and students fell ill made a single source of the outbreak unlikely, Peluso explained.

"It is typically very difficult

SEE SOURCE, PAGE 2

INSIDE



ALUMNI OPEN RESTAURANT IN BURLINGTON
PAGE 6



THE LAST I WORD:
FAMED COLUMNIST
LEA CALDERON-GUTHE SIGNS OFF
PAGE 14



HAIRSPRAY:
A CUT ABOVE THE REST
PAGE 16

BEYOND THE BUBBLE

BY MELANIE HAAS

Last Friday's terrorist attacks in Kano, Nigeria have left at least 157 dead and the government open to criticism as fear of continued violence mounts.

Military officials predict that the number of deaths will increase, as the local hospitals were not prepared or able to handle the magnitude of such a crisis. As of now, officials have confirmed that 157 have died, but local reporters are now communicating that casualties have risen to 162, reported CNN.

"A terrorist attack on one person is an attack on all of us," Nigeria's president, Goodluck Jonathan, posted on his Facebook page in response to the attacks.

Jonathan also commented that whoever is responsible will face the full wrath of the government, reported CNN. He did not, however, mention by name the group that has taken responsibility for the terrorist attacks, nor did he outline a plan of action.

In fact, his words echo similar statements that he made in the wake of other terrorist events for which the same group, Boko Haram, has claimed responsibility. Subsequently, Nigerians have begun to doubt this administration's ability to stem the flow of violence.

Boko Haram is an Islamist militant group that demands a change of government, the instatement of Islamic Sharia law and the end of Christianity throughout Nigeria. Boko Haram means, in the region's native language of Hausa, "Western civilization is a sin."

This radical Islamist group, once confined to northern Nigeria, has expanded into the country's central region. Officials once believed that the group was largely isolated but now suspect ties to Al Qaeda, according to *The New York Times*.

The past couple of months have witnessed a great deal of violence at the hands of Boko Haram, including a series of terrorist acts on Christmas day that killed at least 25 people.

The government's response, has, thus far, been inadequate in the minds of many.

"The Christian community is fast losing confidence in government's ability to protect our rights," Ayo Oritsejafor, the head of the Christian Association of Nigeria said.

Muslims acting on behalf of Boko Haram do not limit their victims to Christians. The group has murdered Muslims who oppose the group and even a well-established member of Boko Haram who met with officials to talk about the possibility of a truce. In fact, the group has in the past mainly targeted government buildings and security forces.

Because many Nigerians believe that the threat of this group should be a priority for the current administration, shock and outrage followed the president's attempt to focus on oil instead, the *Times* reported.

Two weeks ago President Jonathan announced the removal of Nigeria's oil subsidy. After six days of protest, the government relented and lowered fuel prices but not without incurring much criticism and anger.

The government insisted that the oil subsidy is a drain on public finances, but because most Nigerians live in intense poverty, surviving on \$2 per day, the removal of the subsidy would increase not only transportation costs, but also "the price of foodstuff, clothing, any form of direct labor [and] construction costs," a protestor commented to CNN.

The subsidy blunder has cast a poor light on the government in a time when an appearance of strength is key. The Nigerian population is comprised of nearly half Muslims and half Christians. Should the government fail to stop or reduce these attacks, civil war may further divide the African nation.

Overcrowding issues complicate Bunker return

By Lauren Davidson

On Friday, Jan. 20, a Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB)-sponsored late night dance party at the Bunker was cancelled for the second week in a row due to ongoing difficulties with finding students and staff to manage security and crowd control.

According to new policies implemented by MCAB and the College, there must be at least eight students in addition to Dining Services members working the space to adhere to new security measures. This new guideline has been implemented due to a number of health and safety issues after events during the fall semester.

Nadia Schreiber '12, president of MCAB, attributes past problems to the layout of the space and its capacity.

"One of the problems with the Bunker is the capacity is very low," said Schreiber. "The capacity is 150 people and we've had 300 people minimum show up every night, so outside crowd control became as much of an issue as on the inside."

Obstacles that proponents of the Bunker must face not only relate to crowd control, but the issue of alcohol and destruction of property. The Bunker's liquor license was revoked last year to alleviate some of the concern surrounding underage consumption of alcohol, but empty containers have still been found.

Supporters of the space believe that in spite of its contentious nature, the Bunker maintains a crucial role on campus, serving as a neutral space for all students.

"We made the case that this is supposed to be a venue where people go to dance it off, not go and drink," said Schreiber. "If 300 people are showing up each Friday, then obviously that's a good thing and there's a demand for it to remain open."

Several meetings and discussions have been held on the subject of the Bunker and whether safety concerns outweigh the need for a social space. Many feel that there is a disregard for the property and offices within the Freeman International Center.

"Our goal with the Bunker is to create a space where we can hold events that are both safe and fun," said Associate Dean of Students JJ Boggs. "We definitely want to appeal to the students and their interest in having late night dance parties that are not in what feels like an administrative space. But at the same time we have a responsibility to make sure there is safe behavior happening."

Students have also noticed the benefits to the space, despite the problems that have been brought to the attention to the administration.

"Overall, I think the Bunker is a great, fun space to dance on Friday nights," said Mackenzie Stewart '13. "If people were a little more respectful in line, the safety concerns would be a nonissue."

Boggs would like to see the Bunker being used for other events and activities throughout the weekday and weekends as a means of countering the negative and disrespectful behaviors towards the space.

"I would love to see it be a really flexible space," said Boggs. "So in my mind it's kind of a utilitarian meaning that you could have yoga classes in there during the day and then maybe having a late night dance party and then maybe a Winter Term workshop on the weekends."

Additionally, Boggs has been working with Dean of Students Katy Smith Abbott and the Task Force on Alcohol and Social Life to discuss the issues surrounding the Bunker to aid in the task force's research. The task force has discussed the issues surrounding the Bunker on a biweekly basis in hopes of discovering a potential solution to the problem.

Despite numerous efforts attempting to resolve the issue of the Bunker, it is still at risk of being shut down if not run smoothly over Winter Term. Boggs feels that this would be a severe loss to the student body due to the lack of alternative spaces on campus.

"At the end of our meeting in the fall it was decided that either Winter Term works perfectly or the Bunker is shut down indefinitely," said Schreiber.

Source of outbreak unknown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to determine the exact cause or source of gastroenteritis during a small outbreak," Peluso wrote in an email. "Diverse groups [of people exhibiting symptoms] ate in different locations. ... At this point, we cannot attribute the current situation to a particular source."

"While it is easy to blame food," he added, "on a college campus one would also want to consider direct person-to-person spread, bathroom facilities, exercise equipment, computers and other commonly shared resources as a potential source of infection."

Food poisoning, however, was still not ruled out as a possible cause of the widespread illness, wrote Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette in an email. Regardless, extra precautions were taken in the dining halls on Monday, including changing utensils more frequently and continuing to maintain extreme caution with food temperatures, as well as having staff members wash their hands regularly and using gloves when handling food.

To stem the spread of the illness, however, much of the responsibility would be on students to maintain positive personal hygiene, agreed Biette and Peluso.

The College custodial staff also made adjustments to restrict the spreading of illness, altering cleaning schedules on Monday to disinfect "touch points" and bathrooms in a number of living areas, Assistant Director of Custodial Services Linda Ross wrote in an email.

New committee to support small concerts

By Ian Stewart

A new Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) offshoot will make it easier for students to bring an artist or band to campus. The MCAB Small Concerts Committee — which is accepting applications starting next week — will provide logistical advice and up to \$4000 in funding to groups or individuals looking to organize a show.

"We've felt that there's been a lot of talk about the lack of small concerts," said Dan Crepps '12, co-chair of the MCAB Concerts Committee and a founder of the Small Con-

certs Committee. "We get a lot of requests to bring small bands so we said, 'why not let the students do it themselves?'"

After submitting information about the desired artist, venue and price estimates, students will meet with the existing MCAB Concerts Committee to discuss viability and details. Crepps said the system was designed to capitalize on the existing expertise in MCAB.

According to Student Activities, Programs and Events Manager Dave Kloefer, the initiative will help to bridge a "grey area" between student organizations such as WRMC

or the Gamut Room that already have budgets for bringing bands and the MCAB Committee.

"Our money is for programming, not for funding," Kloefer said of MCAB's status quo. Crepps said spring semester will serve as a trial run for the project and that if it is successful, they would consider asking the SGA's Finance Committee for additional funding.

Interested students can access the application form from the Middlebury server at go/bringaband.

Solar farm to turn profit



COURTESY: ALLEARTH RENEWABLES

The solar panels, pictured above, will move with the sun to maximize energy capture.

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Renewables, a local Vermont company — this proposal makes a lot of sense."

The solar panels are a major step for a College dedicated to sustainability, said Andrew Savage '03.5, a current employee at AllEarth Renewables.

"Solar is an efficient renewable resource and the installation will benefit the College's bottom line and also benefit the College's environmental mission. It is exciting to see it combined with a number of other initiatives taken by the College — it shows how a college can lead the way."

While Byrne did admit that the trackers would likely only provide enough energy to offset approximately one percent of the College's energy consumption, he emphasized that the College will seek to learn from this initiative, re-evaluating the viability of solar in the future in order to progress towards the achievement of the goal of carbon neutrality in 2016.

"This project will provide an opportunity to become familiar with solar technology and over time get a better sense of how we might be able to do more of this in the future," he said.

MCAB's WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MIDDLEBURY?

Trivia Night

Test your knowledge at Crossroads

WEDNESDAY AT 9 - 11 P.M.

Pub Night

Featuring Dr. Ruckus in Crossroads

THURSDAY AT 10 P.M. - 12 A.M.

Free Friday Film ▶

Footloose
FRIDAY AT 7 & 10 P.M.

Midd Idol

Finale in Crossroads
FRIDAY AT 8 - 10 P.M.

MCAB Speakers Committee is now accepting applications from students and student groups interested in the Spring Symposium. The deadline for applications for the Spring Symposium is Jan. 31. Proposers must have attended a training session before submitting their application; the last training of J-term will be Thursday, 1/26 at 4:30 P.M. in Axinn 104.



Dish damage remains high

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The 2010-11 record year was headlined by a \$25,137.629 fire in Gifford on Feb. 26, 2011.

The rise in damage prompted a strong reaction from the administration. President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz hosted an open student forum on April 26 titled: "Alcohol: Use, Abuse and Disrespect for the Community. Is a Dry Campus the Only Answer?"

President of the Student Government Association (SGA) Vin Recca '12 said the administration's response and increased publicity led to students pressuring each other to end dorm damage.

"The decrease in dorm damage is truly a testament to the increased student awareness on the prevalence of the problem and its massive cost," he said. "Middlebury students realize that these acts of vandalism are just stupid and do not need to occur."

"There is, and should be, tremendous stigma against deliberately damaging property, especially in a place where community is valued so strongly," he added.

LANDSCAPE DAMAGE DOWN BUT NOT OUT

The rise in dorm damage was accompanied by landscape damage to trees and shrubs across campus, a previously unseen type of vandalism.

Middlebury College Landscape Horticulturist Tim Parsons estimated that the College sustained some sort of landscape damage during each of the final 10-12 weekends of the 2011 spring semester.

In a year of reduced dorm damage, Parsons is cautiously optimistic.

"Our department has seen a reduction in [landscape] damage this year," he said in an email. "I would venture to say half as much as last year, although it is still a large amount compared to even two or three years ago."

While Ross sees a degree of dorm dam-

age as somewhat natural, she said there is no place for landscape damage at Middlebury.

"The type of damage Tim [Parsons] sees is senseless damage. Why would someone rip off a tree branch?"

DISH DAMAGE REMAINS STAGNANT

As dorm and landscape damage have decreased, dish damage has remained high. Students are allowed to take food out of the dining halls, but the privilege has resulted in a campus strewn with unreturned dishes and has left Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette with shortages of plates, bowls, mugs and silverware.

"People don't see the dishes as important," said Biette. "Students have this expectation that someone is going to come by with a magic broom and sweep up after them."

According to Biette, Dining Services has already spent 75 percent of this year's dish budget replacing the lost tableware from last year.

Students have recently bemoaned bowl shortages, but with a flat-lined budget for dishes, Biette predicted future shortfalls of all dishware. If current trends continue, he predicted shortages of dishes lasting three to four weeks during the upcoming spring semester.

"Let the shortages be there. Looking for cups? Check your local trash barrel," he said. "Students yell at my dishwashers but the reality is they have to look in the mirror."

Biette said that the idea of putting a dining hall employee at the exits to keep dishes from leaving has crossed his mind, but not been officially discussed yet.

SGA president Recca said many students see borrowing dishware as "a right given to them by the community."

"I truly believe that people who take [dishes] from the dining hall originally in-

tend to bring the dishes back, but for a variety of reasons, do not do so," he said.

Dish damage problems at multiple peer institutions do not make the College's situation any easier for Biette to swallow.

"I'm not a temperance union, chest-thumping pulpit screaming type of person, but I have kids and I'm raising them to be responsible," he said. "I don't see students taking this [dish damage] seriously as part of growing up."

Unlike dorm damage, which played a key role in the influential alcohol forum last spring, dish damage has failed to stir a strong student reaction.

"There's no cause and effect. There's no outcry. There's just 'oh, it's college,'" said Biette.

WINTER TERM THREATENS PROGRESS

Winter Term has historically been a hotbed for dorm damage. Students typically have more time to relax and pursue non-traditional interests.

Additional free time during Winter Term often fuels drinking, which is the leading cause of dorm damage, according to Ross.

"From a facilities services point of view, it [Winter Term] is a concern," she said. "With this very cold weather recently, our people are out trying to fix heating calls and that is where their attention needs to go instead of responding to student damage issues."

Collado is proud of the progress made this year and said she hopes that students will continue to make positive strides in the semesters ahead.

"The recent decreases are evidence of students wanting to take more ownership of their spaces," she said. "Students should not allow that to slow down. I am hoping they will talk with one another, come up with solutions, connect with our outstanding custodial staff and keep this progress going."

MiddNotes replaces all-student emails

By Nate Sans

Library and Information Services (LIS) launched a new online Portal along with its MiddNotes module early last week in an attempt to cut down on the volume of all-student emails and provide students with a one-stop shop for campus events and information.

MiddNotes is a feature, or "module," of a greater LIS project called the Portal, a term with which many students are familiar because of the advertising campaign found around campus promoting its launch.

The Portal, which can be accessed via students.middlebury.edu or go/students, is the latest improvement to be made in a series of changes to the College's website LIS has facilitated by LIS. The push to alter the College's online presence dates back to 2008 when the Web Strategic Task Force recommended an overhaul of the College's website.

During the research phase of the Web-Makeover project, which redesigned the College's website, several gaps were found in the new site's capabilities. Time constraints did not allow for such problems to be fixed, but the Portal development team kept track of and addressed these flaws in creating the new student website.

According to Manager of Web and Interactive Digital Media Technologies Joseph Antonioli, LIS wanted to allow for

personalized student webpages that were also compatible with smartphones.

While the College website does not meet such needs, Portal is both customizable and smartphone-friendly. Students are able to log in to their page from a computer or smartphone and select which features, or "modules," they wish to appear on their main page, such as sports scores or dining hall menus.

MiddNotes is a module within the Portal designed with feedback from students in mind, primarily addressing the need to cut back on the number of all-student emails that are sent out.

"Students feel bombarded with communication coming from multiple areas, and it's easy for messages to get lost in the noise," said Dean of the College Shirley Collado.

Many students agree with Collado on this subject.

"We get so many emails and a lot of them are not applicable to me," said Lizzie Morris '14.

Instead of sending out information via email, messages requiring the attention of the entire student body will be posted on MiddNotes in an attempt to reduce the volume of all-student emails, replacing them with postings that students visit voluntarily.

Some remain skeptical of this new mass-communication system.

"I'm sure it would be easy to get used to, but people get set in their ways so it could struggle to catch on," wrote Becca Fanning '12 in an email.

The utility of MiddNotes is dependent on the frequency of student usage. Students will need to adapt to the Portal and the information it provides because MiddNotes aims to lessen the information deemed suitable for all-student emails.

Those in charge of the transition to MiddNotes anticipate a lengthy accommodation period as students adjust to the new site but are hopeful that the system will ultimately grow in popularity and become a comprehensive news source for students.

"If [students] want to know what's happening at Middlebury, then they need to go and look at the Portal," said Special Projects Coordinator Sarah Franco.

All students will be able to post on MiddNotes, but only after receiving approval from a Student Government Association representative.

The improvements and additions to students' online experiences do not end with MiddNotes. Franco said that the ultimate goal of the project is to enable students to check their emails through the Portal, creating a one-stop site for students' online needs, thereby meeting Collado's vision of the Portal as a destination that is "interesting, dynamic and convenient."



BY KATHRYN DESUTTER '13

Beijing, China

As if learning a language without an alphabet doesn't give me enough to complain about, Mandarin also has lots of four-character idiomatic expressions that can't be translated literally. When I first arrived in Beijing, one in particular kept popping into my head: "ju mu wu qin," which roughly means "to look up and see no one familiar."

I spent the fall semester studying in Buenos Aires, Argentina, backpacked for a month through Patagonia, went home for five days, and then flew to Beijing. At this point, I'm fairly numb to arriving in new places.

But Beijing changes daily (five new subway lines opened two days after I arrived) and even those who grew up here admit that the city constantly feels new to them. Although newness is always exciting, sometimes I wish I could look up and see something familiar.

This past Sunday, China celebrated *Chun Jie*, or Spring Festival, which we call "Chinese New Year." This holiday is our Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years all rolled into one. Traditionally, everyone returns home — however far away home may be — to celebrate with family.

I celebrated *Chun Jie* with my Chinese roommate's family, although it was just her, her mother and me. Per the one-child policy, my roommate has no brothers or sisters. Her father couldn't join us because he's wrapping up some business at their old house, which the government will soon tear down to build a factory in its place.

Knowing that this *Chun Jie* would be a little sad for the both of us — my roommate, staying in a rented apartment, and me, thousands of miles away from my real family — I suggested that we buy some sparklers. Well, at least what we *thought* were sparklers until my roommate's mother pointed out the large, red characters that warned not to hold the fireworks with your hands. *Zao gao!* Not to be discouraged, we propped up the fireworks with stones and lit them anyway. I laughed hysterically as they let out tiny, intermittent bursts of light in the most pathetic excuse for a firework that I've ever seen.

I think my roommate felt a little embarrassed — the Chinese invented fireworks, after all, and at no point is their pride in this accomplishment more apparent than during *Chun Jie*. I heard fireworks going off all day Sunday, the noise only dimming slightly when the CCTV programming started at 8 p.m. (Wouldn't want to miss the dancing robots!) At midnight, fireworks filled the neighborhood and the horizon, making talking impossible. Even though we lit our fireworks early in the evening, they still paled in comparison to the neighbors'.

The firework mix-up gave me a tiny, gentle reminder that things you do abroad don't usually work out as planned, and that you just make things up as you go along. When I was little I used to think that "growing up" was a magical moment in which you suddenly knew all of life's answers. I know now that this doesn't exist, and neither does the moment when I will suddenly have all the answers and feel comfortable in China.

I laughed and told my roommate not to worry — I didn't care, because ... because ... I paused and looked up, thinking about the words I wanted to translate, and I noticed that unlike smog-covered Beijing, out here in the suburbs we could see the stars.

I explained to my roommate that it was better that our fireworks didn't give off much light; for the first time since I arrived in China, I could look up and see something familiar.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG JANUARY 17-23, 2012

| DATE | TIME | INCIDENT | DESCRIPTION | LOCATION | DISPOSITION |
|---------|------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1/17/12 | 11:33 a.m. | Property Missing | College chairs | Atwater A | No suspects |
| 1/21/12 | 1:14 a.m. | Fire | Burning ping pong ball | KDR | Case closed |
| 1/21/12 | 9:20 p.m. | Vandalism | Vending machine | Pearsons | No suspects |
| 1/22/12 | 1:40 a.m. | Drug Violation | Paraphernalia | Atwater B | Case closed |
| 1/22/12 | 2:43 a.m. | Vandalism | Damaged door & glass ceiling | Hepburn | No suspects |
| 1/22/12 | 12:25 a.m. | Disturbance Noise | Students talking too loudly | Pearsons | Case closed |
| 1/23/12 | 1:08 a.m. | Vandalism | Holes in the wall | Pearsons | Case closed |

The Department of Public Safety reported giving 12 alcohol citations between 1/17/2012 and 1/23/2012.

COLLEGE SHORTS

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

COMPILED BY SAM SIMAS

Studies show some positive effects of Facebook on GPA

During finals weeks and amidst studying, students often blame Facebook for poor grades, yet multiple studies now suggest the social media site may not be the culprit.

One recent study looked at the correlation between the types of activities students did while on Facebook and their GPA. Students who spent their average 106 minutes per day on Facebook networking and posting informative links tended to have higher GPAs. This was sometimes due to the fact that students found information relating to their course material on Facebook, the study found, and were able to expand their learning and understanding about a particular topic.

Those using Facebook to chat, however, had negative GPA correlations, as seen in the real world when students eschew academic responsibilities to socialize. When used inappropriately, Facebook can harm GPA, but for the most part it is helpful, providing students with a constructive break from work.

— UWIRE

Major universities to begin mass purchases of e-books

In the past week, five major universities — Cornell University, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Minnesota, the University of Virginia and the University of Wisconsin — have become part of a project to increase the expanse and utility of e-books on college campuses. The project is an experiment to test the practicality and financial costs of using e-books versus the traditional textbook.

Although college administrators are excited to reduce the cost of textbooks for students, the main roadblock in the project has been negotiating prices. Publishers are worried both about making money and piracy of the electronic books. Consequently, the cost benefits have varied for students across the country, with some saving \$25 per book and others only \$1. The integration of textbooks with technology could lead to better, more interactive textbooks as the line between the two blurs.

— The Chronicle of Higher Education

Rutgers students offer microloans to neighbors

In 2008, Rohan Matthew and Joe Shure, students at Rutgers University, noticed the struggle facing members of the New Brunswick, N.J. community in the wake of the recession. They saw many residents running side businesses out of their homes, unable to come up with the capital to pursue those businesses full-time. So the two men worked out a microfinancing plan; they figured out how to offer loans and training to low-income entrepreneurs and found companies to provide grant money.

The program has spread to at least 50 other colleges and universities, with eight-week training programs to teach students how to run their own ventures. The programs have students from a variety of majors and are experiencing great success.

"People want to have careers with a conscience," Matthew said, leading to the popularity and strength of the programs.

— The Chronicle of Higher Education

Wonnacott co-heads to step down

By Salena Casha

After serving as Wonnacott Commons co-Heads for eight years, Professor of American Studies and English and American Literatures Will Nash and Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies Deborah Evans will be stepping down at the end of the year.

Nash and Evans had been contemplating stepping down for a number of years and ultimately decided that this year was the right time to do so. Nash will be on sabbatical for half of the 2012-13 academic year, using his time away from the College as a means to develop a new set of courses to teach. Evans will be teaching part-time in future years.

Both Nash and Evans found their interactions with students in academic and non-academic environments to be one of the more rewarding aspects of their roles as Commons Heads. Evans sees her role as an intermediary, working with students, staff, faculty and the administration in all aspects of life at the College, from the classroom and beyond.

"Being Commons Heads has made us more aware as teachers, as well," said Evans, alluding to her increased awareness of the high stress levels students can ex-



Will Nash (left) and Deb Evans (right) are stepping down as faculty co-heads of Wonnacott Commons at the end of the year.

perience stemming from difficult workloads.

Nash shared a similar sentiment, acknowledging that being a professor and co-Head "pulls you in multiple directions, [but] it pays off because each sector feeds into the other," a situation that proves to be difficult at times, as their attention must be divided multiple ways.

In an attempt to bridge the gap between academic and non-academic spheres of life at the College, Nash and Evans hosted a discussion between students and professors after hearing students complaining about the amount of work they had been assigned.

"That was one of those times when

people who knew each other in one context were brought outside the classroom to have a very frank conversation about the workload and its difficulties and benefits," said Nash.

With regard to the future, Nash said, "It's really wonderful to have these sorts of opportunities, but it'll be wonderful to focus back on other things we both really love."

"We'll miss working with the people we do," said Evans. "We've developed great relationships with other Commons Head faculty members and the outstanding [Commons Residential Advisors (CRAs)] we've had."

Wonnacott Commons CRA Stanis Moody-Roberts '11.25 grew close with Nash and Evans during his many years as a First-Year Counselor in Battell Hall, calling the duo extremely helpful throughout a difficult transition period during his first year at the College.

"I have had a really wonderful experience working with them and they are definitely going to be missed," said Moody-Roberts. "They are great about being supportive of their students and I can't imagine their house without them in it. They leave quite a legacy."



SGA UPDATE

Recca announces end of all-school emails

By Ben Anderson

The Jan. 15 meeting of the SGA was a brief opening for the Student Government Association (SGA) Winter Term session.

Michael Polebaum '12 began the meeting with an update on the Pass/Fail bill. He said that Old Chapel has expressed support for the bill and that he plans to lobby professors for their support. President of the SGA Vin Recca '12 urged the other senators to lobby their professors as well.

Brittany Gendron '12 then took the floor to survey the senators' opinions on a resolution that would aim to expand the reserves collection in the library. Currently, the reserves are intended to act only as supplementary texts rather than provide students with all of the required reading material for a class. Gendron gathered some support for expanding the reserves among members of the library staff and SGA senators, but encountered some concerns regarding the feasibility of providing such a large number of books to the student body.

The meeting ended with Recca's announcement of the end of all-school emails. As of Jan. 16, Recca will no longer be using email to contact the student body about events on campus. Instead, he urges all students to use the new portal provided by LIS (go/students). The website will list articles of interest, an events calendar and

dining hall menus, as well as many other services.

The Jan. 22 meeting of the SGA opened with an update from Kathryn Benson '13 on Gendron's plan to expand the reserves collection, which is currently being discussed by the LIS.

Rhiya Trivedi '12 then spoke to the senators about her project, JusTalks. An offshoot of the Social Justice Coalition, the proposed JusTalks would establish a series of mandatory workshops, potentially to take place during a student's first Winter Term. These workshops would serve as a platform for safe and open discussions on topics such as race, faith, disability and social rights that Trivedi believes are largely absent from the lives of members of the College community. Joanie Thompson '14 presented a resolution supporting the program. Concerns were raised by some of the senators that the compulsory nature of such a program would discredit its effectiveness, but the resolution received nearly unanimous support with twelve votes in support and one abstention.

Next, Joanie Thompson '14 presented her bill proposing to continue the Outside Initiation for New Kids (OINK) program, requesting funding from the SGA for half of the programs expenses through 2015. As proposed in the bill, OINK is a mandatory outdoor program for all first-

years, but also includes alternate options for those who do not wish to participate in outdoor activities. Funding from the SGA would allow the program to be free for all students, but the bill requests that by 2016 both the SGA and Old Chapel decide upon an alternate source of funding outside of the SGA.

Gendron questioned whether the SGA was the proper source of funding for this program, but Thompson countered that the administration was reluctant to fund the program at all and she believes that OINK is too important for students to allow it to disappear completely. Other senators objected to the bill, voicing concerns that the bill provides a "band-aid solution" to the OINK funding problem. Some senators worried that the bill only delays the discussion over who will fund the project and establishes an unfavorable precedent of SGA funding for the program. In response, Thompson agreed to change the language in the bill in order to emphasize the need to find non-SGA funding in the future. The bill passed with nine votes in support, two against and two abstentions.

Finally, a resolution came to the floor urging LIS to add a printer in the McCullough Student Center that would be integrated into the existing Papercut system and would be available to all students. The resolution passed with twelve votes in support and one against.

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Wind turbine spins VT in a green direction



HANNAH BRISTOL

The new wind turbine in Vergennes adds a new feature to the town, sending a strong message to Addison County about the importance of renewable energy.

By Hannah Bristol

Driving North on Route 7, you might notice a new addition to the Vergennes landscape. Beyond St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the Vergennes Opera House, the blades of a wind turbine spin in the breeze.

In celebration of Global Wind Day on June 15, 2011, Green Mountain Power (GMP) and Northern Power Systems (NPS), a Vermont-based wind turbine manufacturer, announced a contest to install a Northern Power 100 wind turbine to a site with strong wind, access to three phase power lines and a public service mission.

"We were really satisfied with the amount of applications that came through the door," said NPS Associate Marketing Manager John Ciempa. "It really shows that Vermonters not only want wind, they support wind and, when they're given the chance to have it in their community as a community owned asset, they're very much in favor of it."

On Sep. 19, Northlands Job Corps, a government center that educates and provides technical training to people ages 16 to 24, was announced as the winner of the contest and the future site for the turbine.

"Job Corps has a long commitment to doing the right thing environmentally," said Ian McGaughey, business and community liaison of Northlands Job Corps. "So it is a very clear symbol to our commitment to green initiatives."

Ten percent of the power generated by the Vermont-built turbine goes to Northlands Job Corps, and the other 90 percent enters the grid to power homes in the community. The Northern Power 100, as it is known, generates enough electricity to power 20-25 homes. This style of power generation, called distributed wind, brings the community into the project.

"Distributed wind enables businesses, schools, farms, municipalities and non-profits to generate on-site renewable energy," said Ciempa.

"This type of local ownership in energy production brings huge benefits directly to the energy user, their community and a wide array of other stakeholders."

This project is the first example of utility-run community power in Vermont. The utility, GMP, owns and operates the machine on the Northlands Job Corps property in a way that benefits the community as well as the property owner. The wind turbines pump energy into the grid, and then the energy pumped in is offset from the Job Corps' consumption.

"We said let's see if we can be creative and try to get the lowest possible carbon-reliable resources as we can, and we embarked with a variety of ways," said GMP spokesperson Dottie Schnure. "One of the things we really wanted to do ... is jumpstart renewables in Vermont, and have it be utility owned, because that's one of the most cost-effective ways to get renewable sources."

"It is exciting that Green Mountain Power is one of the leading utilities in Vermont, and nationally, that is developing programs like this one to help communities install distributed wind turbines," said Ciempa.

Although GMP and NPS have no further plans for installations like the one in Vergennes, both companies hope to use this example as a model for future projects.

"There's nothing like seeing a finished project, so that you can see what it looks like, understand how it works, see how it fits into the community," said Schnure. "I think it will encourage others to do similar types of ventures."

Projects like the turbine in Vergennes tie into a broader movement to push Vermont toward renewable energy, with a goal of attaining 90 percent of energy from renewable sources by 2050 for the state. The momentum for this goal has come from large companies like GMP and NPS, as well as local groups.

GMP has a number of renewable energy projects, including a 200-kilowatt solar facility in Berlin, Vt. completed in 2010, which at the

time was the largest solar facility in Vermont. They are currently building a wind plant in Lowell, Vt. that will provide enough electricity for 24,000 homes.

"The company is trying to do things in a number of different areas to increase renewable energy in Vermont," said Schnure.

As for NPS, they continue to join other Vermont companies as leaders of the wind industry.

"Vermont has always been at the forefront of innovation in wind energy," said Ciempa.

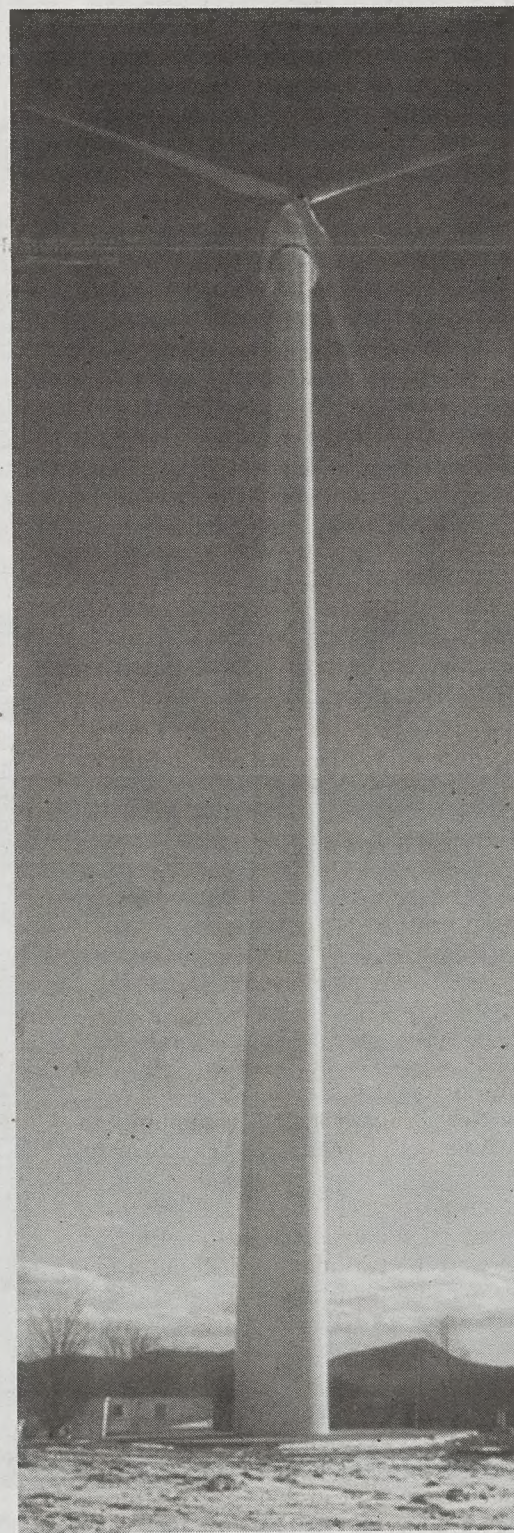
In fact, the world's first megawatt-sized wind turbine, the Smith-Putnam wind turbine, was installed in Castleton, Vt. in 1941.

"As the industry has grown since the 70s, it is nice to see that Vermont has kept a leadership position regarding the development of wind turbine technology," said Ciempa.

On a local scale, organizations like the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) have been making renewable energy affordable and accessible for Vermonters. ACORN runs an energy co-op, which helps members, who pay a \$35 annual fee, make their homes energy efficient and pursue other renewable energy projects. Some of their projects include a community solar installation in Middlebury that coordinates with the Cooperative Insurance Companies of Middlebury and the town of Middlebury to provide bulk delivery of pellet fuel, a renewable source of heating fuel, from Vermont Wood Pellet.

Through cooperation among utilities, manufacturers, local groups and other parties, Vermont is making its renewable energy goals realized.

"By creating, promoting and making available renewable energy products and sources, we are taking steps toward a sustainable future," said ACORN Renewable Energy Co-op coordinator Rhonda Williams. "There is no one renewable energy answer. It involves conservation, hydro projects, solar and wind, and clean and local pellets."



HANNAH BRISTOL

The turbine, at 121 feet, dwarfs other buildings on the property of the Northlands Job Corps.

Pistou stirs up local gourmet

By Sam Miller and Michael Schmidt

If you're looking for a place to take a date, have dinner with your parents or simply enjoy unique and delicious cuisine with friends, look no further than Pistou Restaurant, located at 61 Main St. in Burlington.

Co-owned by Middlebury grads Max Mackinnon '10 and Maji Chien '09, Pistou combines Mackinnon's passion for using high-quality local ingredients and his extensive knowledge of gastronomy with Chien's experiences working up front at high-end New York restaurants.

"I feel lucky to have found a partner who is as dedicated to what we are doing as I am," said Mackinnon, describing Chien as "very good at what she does."

"She understands so much about how the front of the house should be run ... Opening the restaurant really would not have been possible without her."

Educated at the French Culinary Institute in New York City, Mackinnon traces his decision to undertake this ambitious project back to his time at the College.

"I decided this was what I wanted to do," he said, speaking of his undergrad years. "Vermont is a state where the quality of food is important. From produce, to cheese, to beer, there is a great focus on doing things right."

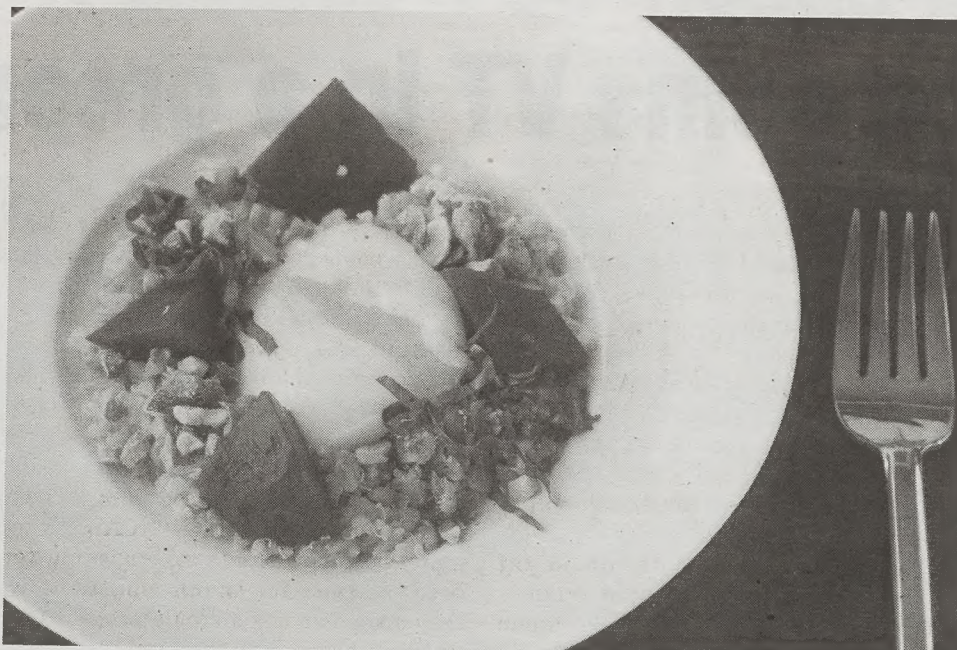
Mackinnon scours local farmers' markets and has established strong relationships with local butchers and bakers in order to produce the highest quality of dishes.

"I spend just as much time trying to find the best raw products as I do cooking that product for our customer. What we are trying to do is take quality ingredients and bring out the best in them."

Diners got a first-hand experience of Mackinnon's artistry at Pistou's special event this past week: "... A brewer's dinner with Bill Herlicka [of] White Birch Brewing in New Hampshire," as Mackinnon called it.

Each plate in the four-course meal was paired with one of Herlicka's craft brews, providing guests with a comprehensive experience of high quality local ingredients and innovative preparation techniques. While Mackinnon frequently changes the menu based on ingredient availability, the dinner highlighted his signature style and offered variations on his best dishes from the daily menu.

First served was a Tarantaise with bri-



COURTESY: MIRA ZAKI

This poached farm egg is one of Max Mackinnon's delectable dishes at Pistou.

oche and figs – essentially a highly stylized gourmet grilled cheese sandwich. Deliciously contrasting salty and sweet flavors complemented a bitter Hop Session Ale from White Birch.

Guests were then presented with a succulent sea scallop, accompanied by a robust and creamy cauliflower puree and a colorful hash of hearty winter root vegetables, enjoyed with White Birch's flowery Hooksett Ale.

The third and favorite course was a chicken breast served with toasted faro, chicken liver and barbecued beets. This dish showcased Mackinnon's use of a 24-hour immersion circulator to cook meat.

"It allows me to cook something at a very controlled and low temperature in order to maintain the integrity of an ingredient and cook it to its fullest potential," Mackinnon explained. "A chicken breast can be cooked in a way that allows it to be extremely tender, juicy, and flavorful."

Tender pieces of chicken breast were washed down with White Birch's Red Farmhouse Ale.

Perhaps Mackinnon's most unique dish of the evening was his dessert, a zesty and smooth parsnip custard with a simple, chocolatey coffee crumble (now featured on the regular menu). Topping off the meal was a White Birch's dark Night Falls, punctuating the unique and satisfying culinary

experience.

The pairing dinner at Pistou revealed only a glimpse into Mackinnon's vast culinary repertoire; his current menu includes other delicacies such as a perfectly cooked poached farm egg and a delectable hanger steak dish, also cooked using Mackinnon's unique immersion circulator technique to achieve maximum tenderness and preserve flavor.

Having recently obtained a liquor license, Chien has been able to concoct a variety of imaginative cocktails, which mirror Mackinnon's creativity in the kitchen and elevate the Pistou dining experience.

While Pistou is by no means cheap (current appetizers range from \$8-12, entrees \$19-25, desserts \$8 and cocktails \$10), one pays as much for their meal as they do for the care that goes in to it. To dine at Pistou is to experience Mackinnon's passion and love for food firsthand.

"Getting into cooking was a way for me to connect with different products and the people that produce them," he said, "while also being able to create something of my own."

Upon receiving your plate, you'll know that the chef plans to impress and pamper you. As attentive servers arrive with plates of beautifully arranged and aromatic dishes, you know that a meal at Pistou is one you will not soon forget.

LOCAL LOWDOWN

24

Raw Milk Workshop

Calling all dairy lovers! Learn how to convert raw milk into your own dairy delights this winter at farm-led workshops hosted by Rural Vermont. This Friday, Windy Corner Farms in Charlotte hosts a butter, chevre and yogurt workshop. Each class includes a tour of the farm and costs around \$20 - \$40. Can't get enough? Then check out the next class on Sunday in Lincoln at Metta Earth Institute, to add feta, soft cheese and kefir to your repertoire, and visit Red Wing Farm in Shrewsbury next Wednesday for a class lead by Lea Calderon-Guthe '11.5 for a lesson in cheddar, gouda and manchego. Call 802-223-7222 for registration.

JAN. 27, 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

South Mountain Singers

Don't get enough a cappella on campus? The South Mountain Singers a cappella group is to perform a benefit concert at the Bridge School in Middlebury. \$10 donation suggested.

JAN. 27, 7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Last-Sunday-of-the-Month Breakfast

Sick of dining hall food but still want to eat to your hearts content? Drive up to the Vergennes Dorchester Lodge F&AM for their Last-Sunday-of-the-Month Breakfast. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat assortment of the pancakes, French toast, eggs, juice and coffee for a quiet Sunday morning in Vergennes.

JAN. 29, 7:30 A.M. - 10 A.M.

Jamie Masefield and Doug Perkins Concert

Head down to the Edgewater Gallery for the return of live music Sundays! Jamie Masefield and Doug Perkins, a Vermont bluegrass and jazz duo, are heading to Middlebury to play acoustic jams. While there, check out featured artist Andy Newman, an abstract landscape artist who is featured in the gallery this month.

JAN. 29, 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.

Hogwarts Reading Society

"Look, over there, next to the tall kid with the red hair. Did you see his face? Did you see his scar?" While we can't all be Harry Potter and attend Hogwarts, Ilsley Library invites kids from Middlebury to come together this Wednesday to talk magic. The DA, woops, I mean the book club, is also open to any discussions on other fantasy series. Bring your wand, just in case.

FEB. 1, 3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Open Dance in New Haven

Get your (clean, dry, soft-soled) dancing shoes ready for this community dance – swing, blues, and waltz. Open to the public with a suggested donation of \$3. For more info email: jscondon@mac.com

JAN. 29, 6:30 P.M. - 8 P.M.

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Through the Portal we go

The EDITORIAL

represents the official opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* as decided by the editorial board.

The Internet can be a confusing place. The sheer volume of available information can ironically make it all the more difficult to find that one solution to your particular inquiry.

For our increasingly web-and-tech-savvy generation, the problem has shifted from figuring out the basic principles of surfing the web to streamlining and simplifying the process to yield maximum efficiency and minimum frustration.

For Middlebury students, the glut

of purely Midd-related information we search for and receive on a daily basis can be overwhelming. Whether it's the mass of all-student emails that clogs your inbox or the endless tabs of "go/_____" it requires to maintain your life at Midd, we have all experienced frustration with the amount of time and energy it takes to find and consume the many online resources Middlebury offers.

The College has recently rolled out its answer to these common student complaints: Portal. A virtual "home page" for Middlebury students, Portal contains just about every online resource your typical Midd Kid might want to access at any given time — Middlebury events, library hours and info, dining hall hours and menu, personalized course information, links to Bannerweb, Webmail, the directory, MOJO and much more — that used to be scattered across a series of pages on the College website and a multitude of "go" connections. If you haven't seen it yet, we urge you to go check it out (go/students or go/portal). Whether you're experiencing your first Winter Term or your last, Portal has a lot of promise but needs student feedback to achieve its full potential.

Perhaps the biggest stir caused by Portal has been the dramatic decline in all-student emails. A large portion of the information that used to be disseminated via such mass emails is now posted directly to MiddNotes, which is displayed on the front page of Portal. Currently, the top stories on MiddNotes are announcements from Middlebury Mountain Club, Sunday Night Group and MCAB. These announcements would otherwise clutter each and every one of our inboxes; now, they are posted in a single place where we can all come together and see them.

While the capacity of Portal to reduce our inbox clutter may ultimately be one of its biggest strengths, it is currently among its biggest limitations in need of improvement. While many students may have enjoyed the recent decrease in all-student emails, a large portion that has not visited Portal may also be missing desired or important information. For Portal to successfully replace all-student emails, students must buy into the premise of Portal and use it actively.

While we transition to Portal, however, the College must remain cognizant of the fact that all-student emails are still, by far, the most reliable way to convey information

to the maximum number of students. It should therefore be aware that by limiting the all-student email privileges of some groups and not others, it is disadvantaging those groups who do not retain that ability.

Moreover, the transition to Portal will require effort from both students and the administration. The administration, in its mission to convert as many students as possible to using Portal, should work together with the leaders of student organizations to establish a presence on Portal. Students should, at the very least, try it out, offer a quick line of feedback and spread the word.

The introduction of Portal represents a major step forward in the ongoing mission to improve our quality of life at Middlebury. In one place, we can quickly and easily find the headlines from MiddBlog, a variety of administrative blogs and (soon) the Campus itself. Just a few tabs over, we can find all the events coming up at Middlebury, the sports scoreboard, the course catalog and the online box office. It is a tool that incoming Middlebury students will soon discover is an indispensable part of their daily life. It is up to us, as current students, to help shape this tool and allow it to achieve its full potential.

The Middlebury Campus

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Working class graduation

I believe that Middlebury's mini-utopia (equal housing, equal meal plans and activities free for all) unites the student body, even if administrative policies are often classist (consider every form of subsidy from CSO-subsidized internships which presume students have access to credit).

However, that utopia backfires when we ignore class. To compensate, I've followed the stories told by Sam Koplinka-Loehr '13 and the United for Undergraduate Socio-Economic Diversity. To support this effort, I'm going to share a story about a rarely discussed facet of working class experience at Middlebury: graduation and student loans.

Last summer, back home in Santa Fe, I hiked

NOTES FROM THE DESK

Cedar Attanasio '11.5
is a Features editor from Santa Fe, N.M.

What would I do with my life, and how would I make a living? The first person I saw after the hike was Keith Grogg '10, who is also from Santa Fe.

"Did you go through Horsethief Meadow?" he said, referring to the valley where the bandits and natives hid from sheriffs in the 18th and 19th centuries. I had. "You wanna go back up there with me in a couple of days?" he said. "I'm gonna borrow a metal detector — we might find something, like an old pistol or a silver coin."

Since graduation, Keith supported himself through salvaging and resale. At a yard sale, he noticed that a broken hand mirror going for \$3 was made of sterling silver. As scrap, the mirror was worth over \$100. At The Black Hole store in Los Alamos, which sells used science equipment from the laboratories, he found a few special thermometers. They cost \$7 each, but contained short lengths of platinum wire. He ripped the platinum out

with a pair of pliers and sold them individually on eBay, netting \$1,200.

I visited Keith again in December. He drove in his girlfriend's red Pontiac to his mother's house, a three-bedroom apartment paid for by her disability check. A couple years ago his mom's retail job laid her off, but it's a moot point because she has trouble walking. Keith pays for groceries. He agreed to have me write a story about him for the *Campus* ("maybe some alum will offer you a job," I told him). He posed for a photo holding the items he had on eBay that day: a sterling silver box from a yard sale, Quicken accounting software from a thrift store and leather saddle bags, from an abandoned storage said that he won in an auction, sight-unseen.

Keith's resourcefulness puts food on the table, but it's not a living and it's certainly not a career. I can't speak for Keith, but I don't believe that survival or wealth is our highest aspiration. Growing up poor didn't program my life goals to becoming not poor. I have dreams.

Our true aspirations are threatened by the ticking time-bomb of the student loan. Along with the tangible specter of our parents' poverty, it's mentally and logistically more difficult to take risks.

Keith's bomb hit 0:00 in October — he's supposed to be paying back his loans. I talked to him about loans downtown, on the north side, as we walked through La Fonda, one of a dozen or so faux-adobe hotels that surround the Plaza. Keith worked there as a teenager. I worked at another "plywood pueblo," the Inn at Loretto, right across the street. I asked Keith why he doesn't just suck it up and take a job in the service industry. "I couldn't work [at La Fonda], because then I'd have to start paying my loans," he said.

If you work less than 30 hours per week, you can negotiate with your lender to defer the loan. Loans give us a wage floor, below which employment

just doesn't make sense. It's worse than before college, because you don't have the freedom to work a low-paying job. Unlike our friends from high school who didn't get degrees, we can't wait tables and then take time off to travel. The loan yoke stays around our necks.

Keith started applying for jobs before he even graduated. His standards didn't start that high: any work in management, investing or anything related to Italy. He came close "I read this ad: 35k a year plus bonuses. Plus, after six months, you could qualify for a manager training program. I thought 'great,' I'll work hard, get experience in management, and move up. But [at] the interview the [recruiting] company told me it was rental cars. The way you move up is by selling ... like getting people to rent a \$200 dollar-a-day car when they only need a \$60 dollar-a-day [car]."

Keith is a wheeler-dealer, but day-trading and reselling yard-sale stuff never involved deception. He finds what people want at a low price and sells it at market value. He doesn't trick people into buying what they don't want. His ethics prevent him from meeting the job market's needs.

Maybe poor kids should settle for less. Maybe they shouldn't get master's degrees in Italian, or try to break into dying industries like journalism. At least not if they want to stop being poor.

But what's at stake here isn't being poor. Keith will put food on the table. We'll survive. My only fear is that we'll squander the most productive years of our lives — not on pursuing meaningful careers or great works of public service — but working at Hertz (tricking tourists into renting Hummers).

People ask me what I'm doing when I graduate. My plan is to keep telling stories. Hopefully a job in writing or editing will catch up to me before my debt does. Hopefully you follow your passions as well, privileged or not.

Mittens the Kitten vs. Newt the Slewt

Never has a presidential campaign been so absent of concrete ideas. Sure, Obama had "Hope" and "Change" but at the same time he had healthcare, race to the top and ending the war. The Republican establishment can't seem to get a handle on why Romney has failed to resonate and why Gingrich has caught on, despite his legendary pile of personal baggage, but the answer is simple: the American people like a

APPLY LIBERALLY

Zach Dallmeyer-Drennen '13.5 is from Canandaigua, N.Y.

candidate with actual ideas. It doesn't matter how good or practical those ideas are, really—we are a nation that likes to

be excited about the future, rather than terrified of it. For his many, many faults, Newt Gingrich seems and has always seemed excited for the future. Romney treats the future like an alcoholic uncle—something not to talk about in public but that creates private stresses. At the heart of things, he's not a man who deals well with confrontation. He says that the income disparity in this country, one of our greatest problems moving forward, should not be discussed on the campaign trail. Instead, it should only be talked about "in quiet rooms." Romney was born for quiet rooms: Perrier in hand, light jazz in the background, hair gelled into a firm helmet. Most Americans would prefer to have campaign issues discussed openly.

At the beginning of this absurd process, Mitt Romney was a candidate that I respected. He seemed reasonable and intelligent. He didn't seem like he'd be a terrible president, even though I disagreed with nearly all of his positions. Now he's devolved, once again, into a robotic caricature of himself. The only plank in his platform is that tired and dangerous notion that America is the unquestioned greatest nation in the world.

If you can tell me one policy proposal that Romney has campaigned on, other than more tax cuts we can't afford or repealing the progress of the last four years, where

he actually differs from Obama—one original suggestion that justifies his candidacy—come to Forest 334 and I will give you five dollars. There are none; his entire campaign has been reduced to the laughable claims that Obama is alternately a crony capitalist or weak on foreign policy. Somebody should tell his staff that for attacks to resonate with the public, they need some basis in truth.

Newt Gingrich is a man of ideas. He has a solution for everything, from poverty to resource depletion. I'm particularly fond of his obsession with building a moon base. True, they range from impractical to blatantly racist. But at least you know he's thought about the problems of the day and tried to come up with an original solution; at least he has a reason to run other than nice hair and a photogenic family. These—ideas—more than anything, are why he has caught on with the Republican base. Romney represents nothing. Newt represents a Conservatism that actually looks for solutions to the problems of the day and the challenges of the future.

My last column predicted confidently that Romney would win. That may no longer be the case. Gingrich's support has increased throughout the nation and he's taken the lead in Florida, the next state in the primary calendar. While the Obama campaign would rather face Newt than Mittens in the fall—polls show that two percent of the public think that's his real first name—there's a lot of danger in that; the American people want a reason to be excited about the future.

Romney does not offer that. Obama offered that in 2008, but his communications staff seems to have retreated into a black hole where they no longer have any contact with the media. There's little exciting about his presidency right now, and little hope that he'll recapture it. America has not learned its lesson, though. We're not ready to "settle" for the nice man with the steady paycheck, or several steady paychecks in Romney's case. We're not ready to settle for good, boring policy. We want the guy who promises us the moon. In 2012, Newt may be that man.

Two standing ovations and one comeback

Despite recent calls for GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich to drop out of the race, following disappointing performances in Iowa and New Hampshire, Gingrich won the South Carolina primary this past Saturday. Gingrich not only triumphed in the debates preceding the Primary, but also received an unprecedented standing ovation during both debates.

During the Fox News debate, moderator Juan Williams questioned Gingrich's assertions that black Americans would be better off with jobs than food stamps and that poor kids would benefit from working as janitors.

In response, Gingrich pegged Obama as the Food Stamp President because the program has expanded under his watch more than it had under any other administration.

Defending his commentary on the importance of work ethic, Gingrich emphasized that Americans' right to the pursuit of happiness begins with every individual's God-

given capacity to find and "own" a job. Gingrich used his daughter as an example by expanding on the benefits of her janitorial work at the local church when she was only 13. The audience responded with a standing ovation.

Then in the CNN Debate, he lambasted John King for starting a presidential debate with a question about his ex-wife's recent claim that Gingrich asked her to enter into an open marriage. He took the opportunity to not only criticize ABC for airing the interview with his ex-wife, but also to condemn the mainstream media's protection of Barack Obama.

His frustration with the, "destructive," "vicious" and "negative nature" of today's media earned

Gingrich another standing ovation from the audience.

Gingrich's resounding defeat over Mitt Romney in the South Carolina primary is a result of more than just two strong performances in the aforementioned debates. Gingrich's fiery rhetoric is responsible for the 12 percent difference between the Former Speaker of the House and second-place Mitt Romney.

Romney has been criticized for his defensive demeanor during the race for the GOP presidential nominee. Pundits have blamed Romney's inability to officially clinch the frontrunner status and the conservative electorate's continued search for an anti-Romney candidate on Romney's moderate platform and timid debate performance.

In comparison, Gingrich's fighting words at the past two debates and unabashed dismissal of President Obama's track record inspire

hope in many conservatives that Gingrich could give Obama a run for his money if he won the Republican nomination.

The ABC interview with Gingrich's ex-wife, his impressive debate rhetoric and his win in South Carolina have propelled the Former Speaker of the House back into the limelight of the media horserace.

As the GOP candidates move to Florida, Gingrich should continue to denounce Barack Obama's track record and condemn the media for continuously harping on his extramarital affairs. No American citizen should value any politician, even the President, as his or her moral compass. It's time the media and electorate focus on the critical issues facing America today.

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Katie Earle '12 is from Bedminster, N.J.

[Gingrich's] impressive debate rhetoric and his win in South Carolina have propelled [him] back into the limelight of the media horserace.

In support of President Obama

To the Editor,

Your Middlebury College Democrats have long recognized that the Democratic Party is the party of the average student. In October, President Obama made yet another great stride toward making college more affordable with his newly announced "Pay as You Earn" plan.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

College Democrats

The plan ensures that beginning in 2012, students who borrow for their college education will be able to cap their loan payments at 10 percent of their discretionary income, the income you have after taxes and necessities. For many Midd Kids and more than 1.6 million college students around the country, the Pay as You Earn plan will lessen a heavy financial burden during a time of economic uncertainty.

President Obama's plan is a stark contrast from that of Republican presidential candidates, who are calling for reductions in student aid. One of the president's priorities is to provide

much-needed relief to students who struggle to pay off their debts. From the day he took office, President Obama has understood that by easing the burden of student loans today, he can create hope for a more stable tomorrow.

College students turned out to vote in record numbers for President Obama in 2008, and we will be back at the polls in 2012 to exercise our democratic responsibility. Your Middlebury College Democrats will be supporting the president every step of the way in his re-election campaign, as we continue to strive for a stronger, smarter and fairer government.

We hope that on the issue of student loans and on other challenges facing our country, you'll join in our support of the president. Feel free to let us know if you have any questions or concerns about the president's platform.

Election year is upon us. Make your voices heard.

Sincerely,
College Democrats
(dems@middlebury.edu)

Keystone and our country's reliance on oil

To the Editor,

I have an incredible amount of respect for the environmental activists involved with the XL Keystone oil pipeline—their dedication is admirable; however, I don't see Obama's decision last week to block the pipeline application as a fundamental victory for the environmental movement. Obama's rejection of TransCanada's construction plan does not in any way lessen our dependence on conventional fossil fuels. Regardless of Obama's decision, crude oil derived from tar sands has and will continue to enter the United States energy market whether it's from Canada or not.

I couldn't agree more with this notion of moving away from carbon-intensive fossil fuels and moving towards relatively cleaner energy sources; however, "energy transitions" do not happen overnight. Historically, transitions from one energy source to another have been lengthy processes that are strongly influenced by technological R&D—the development of hydraulic fracturing technology, for example, essentially created a "shale gas

revolution" that has changed America's energy landscape. R&D is an important catalyst that can strongly influence any "energy transition." Obama's rejection of the Keystone application does not decrease our reliance on oil and it does not encourage a transition.

Restricting America's oil supply would certainly increase oil prices and better incentivize alternative energy sources, however, the consequences of oil shortages—as experienced in the 1973 oil embargo—are dramatic. The U.S. still needs a steady supply of oil while researching plausible substitutes.

Tell Obama to supply us with the oil that our economy currently needs, but most importantly to give us the necessary R&D required for an American "energy transition."

Sincerely,
Feilding Jenks

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Feilding Jenks '13 is from Shoreham, Vt.

"Putting the liberal arts to work"

This week, Middlebury is lucky to have an array of remarkable speakers and educators coming to our campus for the kick-off of the new Middlebury Center for Social Entrepreneurship. In a related Winter Term course, 12 students and I have explored how two ideals — social entrepreneurship and the liberal arts — can be complements. We've learned a lot.

First, we've learned to ask questions related to the overarching goals of these two ideals. Some of these questions will be front-and-center during the kick-off

READER OP-ED

John Isham is a Professor of Economics.

this week: What gives your life meaning? How do you define success? How should the liberal arts foster a moral education? Do teachers

have a social responsibility? Do social entrepreneurs or business entrepreneurs make a bigger impact? We can't wait to engage all in attendance on these and related questions!

Second, we've learned how productive it can be — for students and faculty alike — to think about the changing role of the liberal arts in the 21st century. In doing so, we've considered the phrase "putting the liberal arts to work" and concluded that it has three related meanings.

First, "putting the liberal art to work" offers a clear calling about how and why we educate young people in this challenging new century. The liberal arts are, of course, about *not* providing skills, per se. For that, get an engineering degree, a business degree: those are important, but different.

And yet the wonderful contradiction

in all of this is that the essence of what one learns in the liberal arts — how to ask questions, how to seek answers, how to reflect on leading a life of meaning — all add up to great work skills. None of this is any secret to those who seek out and hire liberal arts students (and their counterparts at top universities built around similar ideals) year after year.

In our Winter Term course, we have discovered how closely the characteristics of social entrepreneurs and change-makers line up with the best qualities of those who have been "liberally educated." In his essay, *Only Connect: The Goals of a Liberal Arts Education*, environmental historian William Cronon delineates "ten qualities I admire in the people I know who seem to embody the values of a liberal education."

They listen and they hear.
They read and they understand.
They can talk with anyone.
They can write clearly and persuasively and movingly.
They can solve a wide variety of puzzles and problems.
They respect rigor not so much for its own sake but as a way of seeking truth.
They practice humility, tolerance and self-criticism.
They understand how to get things done in the world.
They nurture and empower the people around them.
They follow E.M. Forster's injunction from *Howard's End*: Only Connect ...

Guess what? These could easily be a list of what makes the best social entrepreneurs.

So "putting the liberal arts to work" means helping students to reflect on and to celebrate these qualities, to dig deep as they build these qualities within themselves for the long term, and then to understand that in fellow social entrepreneurs and change-makers, they will find kindred spirits all around the world with the very same qualities. It's really true: to aspire to the best of the liberal arts is to prepare to engage the world.

Second, "putting the liberal arts to work" has immediate meaning for the vibrant, growing, global network of those committed to securing a better world: a world with less poverty, more sustainability and more human rights. In his *Blessed Unrest*, Paul Hawken claims that this is "the largest movement on earth, a movement that has no name, leader or location, and that has gone largely ignored by politicians and the media. Like nature itself, it is organizing from the bottom up, in every city, town and culture, and is emerging to be an extraordinary and creative expression of people's needs worldwide." Our students and alums have already so ably contributed to this movement in recent years, with the development of 350.org, the growth of projects financed by the Davis Peace Projects and student and faculty commitment to public health, among other examples.

The recent invitation to this week's kick-off offers the promise of doing more: "The Middlebury Center for Social Entrepreneurship is designed to be a hub in a growing global network of schools, colleges, NGOs, government agencies, businesses and foundations

that are committed to sharing ideas and resources in order to build 21st-century solutions." This promise will come to life if all of us at liberal arts colleges — through our students, our scholars, and our communities — can add a little something to this growing movement. Many universities — Duke, Harvard and Oxford — are already in the forefront of social entrepreneurship education and research. As Middlebury, Wesleyan (they too have a new center!) and similar schools come online, there's a real promise of "putting the liberal arts to work" in the name of a better world.

There's a final meaning to this phrase, a kind of recursive meaning, that a student brought out in our class and which I love. Consider this: by orienting what we do on our campuses around the change-making potential of our students — by making them realize the power of Cronon's qualities — we are putting the liberal arts to work on behalf of itself.

For in response to naysayers who are predicting the demise of the liberal arts, we can hold up a mirror to the liberal arts in the 21st century and say: "Fear not!" We can show that what so often happens at Middlebury — students rolling up their sleeves, engaging the community, reflecting on what worked and what didn't — is a prescription for the future of the liberal arts.

So with luck, the new center will help our extended Middlebury community to do that much more of what we've been doing for some time now: help students to grow and learn, help students and their allies to engage the world, and in doing so to act on a vision of an even better liberal arts experience.

week in tweets



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middtwitt middtwitt
took a night off of fifa #howdidiyougether



middtwitt middtwitt
custodial obviously passive-aggressively moved my boots to the other end of my hall



middtwitt middtwitt
somehow pesto in proctor always increases the day's dining options exponentially



middtwitt middtwitt
it's halfway through jterm but only 1 out of the 6 of my drafted sexual fantasies have been realized!



middtwitt middtwitt
whew! the only possible explanation for why my crush didn't text me back must be that he has gastroenteritis! #saturdaynightdelusions



middtwitt middtwitt
praying political turmoil erupts in scandinavia so my bestie gets sent back to midd! #secondsemester-pipedreams



middtwitt middtwitt
going to the gym will totally clear my head/immune system as long as i don't accidentally lick my treadmill #gastroenteritiscrisis



middtwitt middtwitt
as if there wasn't enough tension between preppy j-o-b-ers and gritty new yorkers... the superbowl!

The time for honesty!

We were meeting in Proctor for dinner and agreed that as a student body we need to take action to demand less work. This is something that everyone feels the effects of, but no one truly talks about the issues. The workload at Middlebury affects us in the following ways:

Psychologically:
Depression
Isolation
Stress
Fear
Anxiety
Lack of Confidence
Negative Competition
Self Image

Social, Physical, and Personal Life:

Lack of Relationships ("No time for love" — no time for commitment)
Sex Lives (sexual assault and hook-up culture based on no time for real relationships)
Family relationships (Stressed out, no time and don't want to call home when depressed)
Community Involvement (No time for being involved or explore town)
Work lives (Need to make money for some, but also have too much schoolwork)
Sleep (No time for full sleeping hours, nightmares based on work)
Weight (losing and gaining weight due to stress)
Social Interactions (Minimalized to "hey how are you doing," then walking away)
Increased Alcohol Consumption (to deal with psychological affects, also increases sexual assault and hook-up culture)
Drug usage (Ritalin, Aderol, energy drinks, prescription drugs or drugs to relax such as marijuana)
Health (From ALL OF THE ABOVE)
Spiritual guidance (No time to connect with religious figures or

spiritual guidance)
Thinking and reflecting (NO TIME!)
Quality of education (We skim to cram for class, trying to fearfully learn quickly)
Athletics (Guess what? No time!)

Grand Effects:

Hurting our bodies, our minds, and our spirits
Disrespecting our space and fellow students, staff and community members
Honesty (too busy to actually explain ourselves truly to each other)

This list might look funny to you, and it did to us at the beginning, as it's brutally honest. We believe there should be a balance of workload that professors assign to students. We demand less work for our psychological, physical, and spiritual well-being! We never finish it all anyways, so having less can only help us be more considerate, reduce stress, increase trust, and improve our lives.

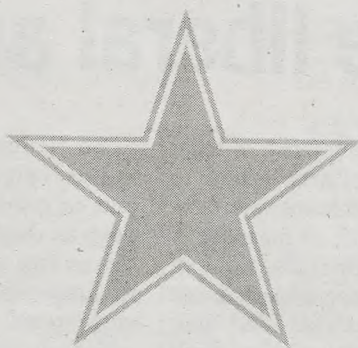
When we look back at our college experience, we don't want to think that

our greatest moment was at a party drunk. Instead, we want to recognize an education without fear where we enjoyed the true connections we made with ourselves and our communities through long-lasting friendships with people from around the world.

This is an initiative. If you support this, go to the facebook page (called "the time for honesty") that you will receive from Middlebury friends, please post your experiences and opinions so that we can actually have a say in our education and create positive change at Middlebury to make it an even better place.

READER OP-ED

Sam Koplinka-Loehr
'13 is from Ithaca, N.Y.,
Mahnaz Rezaie '13
is from Afghanistan,
Fayezeh Haji Hassan
'14 is from Iran.



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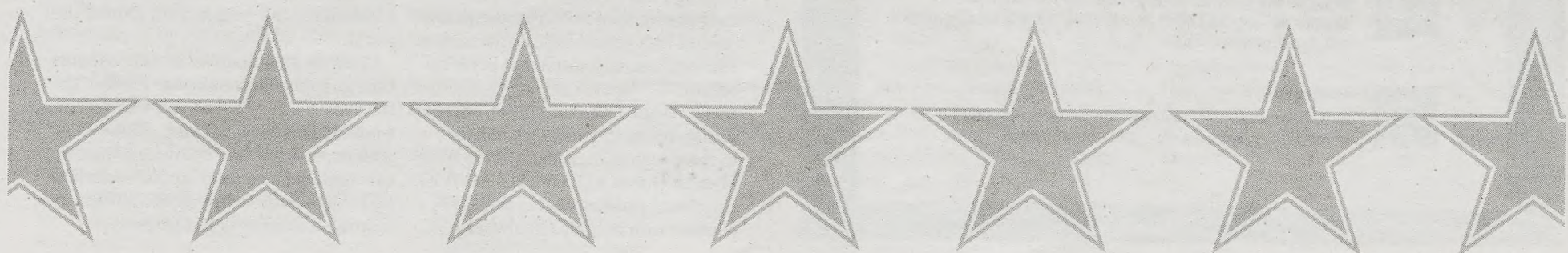
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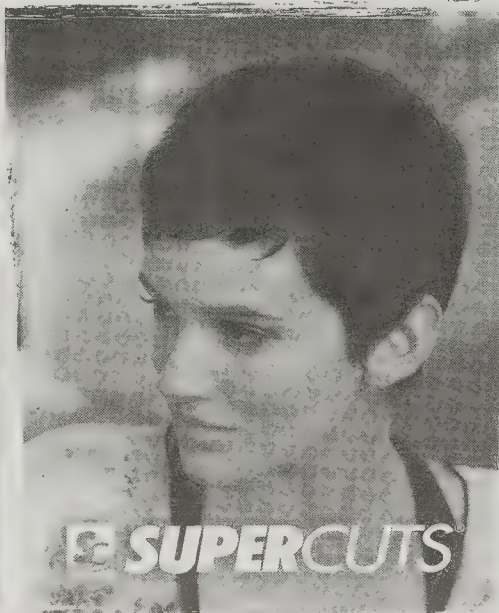
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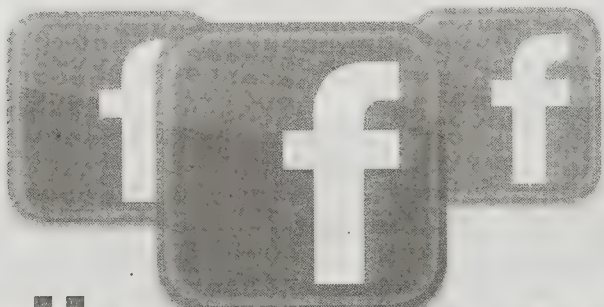
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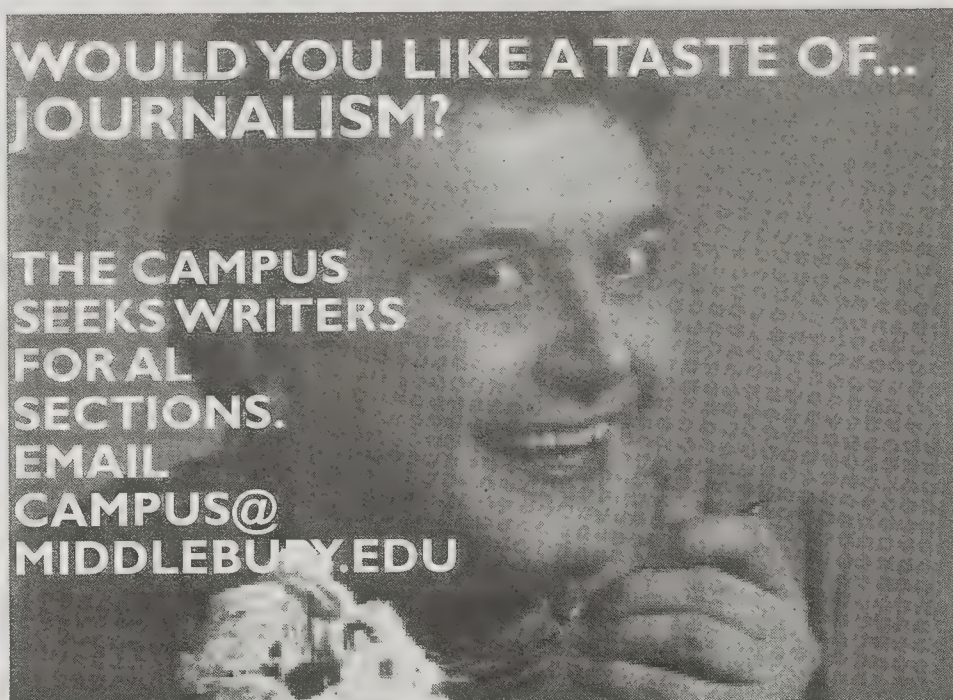


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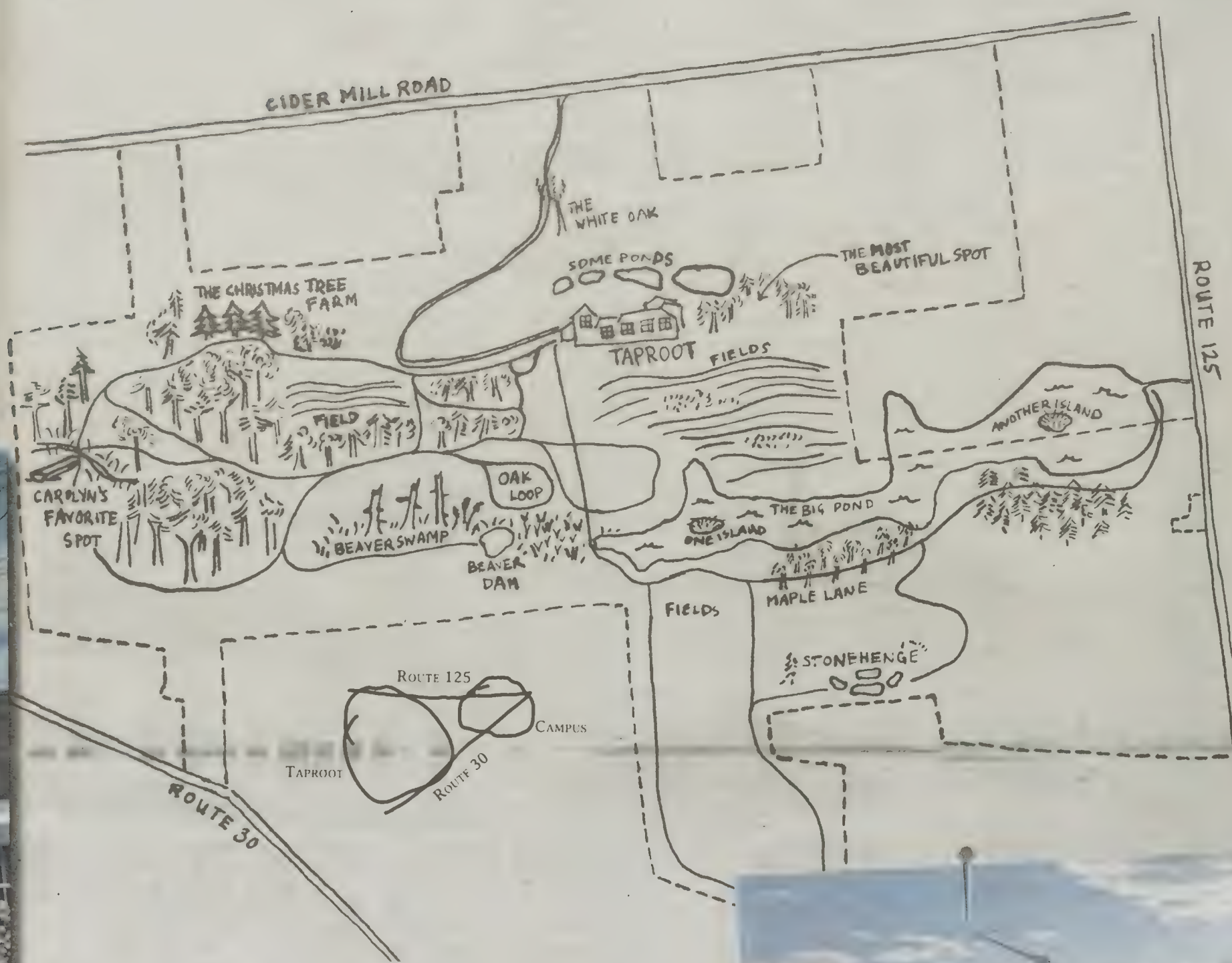


This land is my land, this land is your land

On the grounds of Middlebury's newest property

By Ali Andrews
Photographs by
Anna Clements
Map by
Ali Andrews
Layout by
Ian Stewart





Off of Cider Mill Road, the driveway to Taproot meandered along the contours of the hillside. It took a great jag to the right, a curve to the left, and ended at the home of Carolyn '61 and Will Jackson '51. As the *Campus* reported last week, the Jacksons recently donated the remainder of their property to the college, a parcel totaling 377 acres.

Taproot — the name of the Jacksons' property — had a variety of past uses, largely as pastures and farmland for corn, barley and oats. The previous owners had used the deciduous forest for maple sugaring. For the past few decades, the Jacksons have used it for their homestead. Now, it's up to the College and the students to imagine the future of the Jackson property.

Last weekend, I visited the land, which lies in Cornwall (just five minutes from campus). As I rounded the curves of the driveway, it occurred to me that the short-

est path between two points is a straight line. But a straight line from the road to the Jacksons' home would cut across a field and pass through a low-lying wetland. But the Jacksons avoid interfering with the life of the land. As I came to know, it is of the utmost importance to the Jacksons not to interfere with the life of the land. Naturally, then, the Jacksons' driveway follows the contours of the hillside.

The Jacksons wore flannel and fleece and greeted us warmly at the door. Their home is painted light yellow with white shutters and iron hinges. The house was long, with many joints where it seemed to be patched together like a quilt, in the tradition of the New England farm house. Mr. Jackson imagined how a similar house, built in 1991, would have been built decades before.

"First the small section at the end of the house was built. Then, when they saved enough money, the family would build the barn and another addition. Later they would build this main section and lastly the Victorian barn."

Firewood, cut from the surrounding woods, sat stacked on either side of the door. Each night the Jacksons build two fires, one in a wood stove and another in the fireplace at the other end of the house. Tall potted plants populate their living room — vines, blossoms and a basil plant less than a year old but already waist-high. The warped wooden floors creaked like only an old house should. In front of the house, beige fields dusted in snow sloped down to meet the edge of a frozen pond. Across the pond, I saw the buildings on the west side of campus: BiHall, Ross, Mead Chapel's steeple and assorted rooftops. Beyond them stood the Green Mountains and four of the five tallest peaks in Vermont — Mt. Mansfield, Camels Hump, Mt. Ellen and Mt. Abraham — perched above like the feet of clouds.

See Taproot, 14

THE L-WORD: LOTSA LOVE EDITION



BY LEA CALDERON-GUTHE

I ran into him walking back to my dorm the other night. Standing on a secluded bit of snowy sidewalk we found ourselves unusually alone, a rarity in a small community where someone is almost always watching.

Aware of my two remaining weeks in college, and of my heart racketing against my ribs, I touched his shoulder and said, "I've been vaguely in love with you for two years. Not in any sort of obsessive or unhealthy way. Just in the way that I think you are wonderful and I love to be around you and I think about you sometimes."

He smiled and touched my shoulder. "I think about you very often," he said. "I would definitely call it a crush."

We spoke openly about our mutual affection and intense attraction, and I hugged him tightly. He held my face in his hands and we pressed our foreheads together, but for many complicated reasons we didn't kiss each other. We smiled and sighed and we would have stood there for hours, but we went our separate ways.

Later I breathlessly told my dear friend, suitemate, former sex columnist and personal morality guru the story and he rolled his eyes. "Look," he said, "either do it or don't — I don't have time for this." Kissing or not kissing, rolling into the bushes for a one-time wild romp or not (I seriously considered it) certainly makes things easier. As my friend pointed out, it takes less time and energy to pick a path and take it. Why would I say something but expect nothing? But I don't want either/or — I want both, and neither. I want the tension, and, dear reader, I want you to have it too.

I have been writing this column since I was a doe-eyed junior, determined to make the College a healthier sexual environment for my first-year charges as an FYC. By senior year I realized I was never going to single-handedly change anything. But over the past two and a half years, I've at least received five Facebook friend requests from strangers who read my column. More people asked me, "Hey, aren't you the girl who writes the sex column?" than ever asked me, "Hey, aren't you the editor-in-chief of the paper?" and the L-Word is the first thing that pops up when you Google me — I have no doubt some potential future employer will refuse to hire me on that fact alone.

Writing this column earned me a small slice of notoriety, but it also gave me a chance to sit down and intentionally think about my sex life and sexual development once every two weeks. I think about sex all the time, but without this outlet I wouldn't have crystallized so many disparate thoughts into concrete ideas. Sure, I overshared and I waxed philosophically in circles. My professors got a clearer picture of my weekend activities than they wanted, as did my dad. Some folks on MiddCon-fessional wanted to take me down a peg or two for being self-centered, or being a sexually liberated woman, or whatever irritated them that week. Before you consider whether I give two sh*t's if you think I slept with too many people or do too many freaky things in the candlelit warmth of my bedroom, rest assured — of course I do. I care because I want you to think about why you care what I do with my body in the candlelit warmth of my bedroom. I care because I wonder what you're doing in Saturday's wee hours, and I wonder if it makes you happy. I wonder if anything I've said has helped, or made you think, or made you feel. I didn't pretend to have the end-all, be-all answers — just some ideas that sometimes worked for me.

I do think that I've given you some of

my best thoughts. In my first column, I was just beginning to understand that we get to choose how we define our sex lives, how we define sex. I tried to ease the pressure on orgasms. I tried to tell you "your pride is such a small thing to wager for the opportunity to spend time with someone who interests you." I wrote themed columns on food and sex toys, and somehow I connected sex to environmentalism three years in a row. I compared sex sounds to those of plunging a toilet and told you of my sex-related concussion. I tried to explain and caution all of you against non-relationships. I accepted non-relationships as our answer to overscheduled lives. I dropped some great one-liners: "If you can consider socializing like a class that makes all of the other ones bearable, then a date is a guest lecture that might just change your life," and, "Spilling your guts is the only true indication that you have any."

After six months of admonishing everyone who subsisted on a sex diet of drunken hook-ups, I finally admitted that alcohol could be a fun addition when used responsibly. I suggested we should all proposition each other to make out instead of get down. I wanted us to be honest about our hang-ups in the bedroom. I asked, "But isn't it a little foolish to promise something as fickle as your heart or body to just one person, forever?" I asked, "Every time you meet someone new, it's a fresh start — how can you not have hope? More importantly, what other choice do you have?" I shared the woes of stress gremlin-hood. I stressed the importance of confidence. I realized that "there comes a time when every Midd Kid has to sacrifice a little bit of our essentiality in the pursuit of productivity." I tried to call us all on our sh*t, myself included. I pondered the complexities of friendship and attraction, and I cast a glance down the alley of dark and twisty deviance.

Three hundred and fifty words just summarized 30 columns and at least three times as many hours spent writing them. These have been columns I felt, meant and tried to share humbly, and I hope some of them hit home for some of you. What I have learned most from all of this is that it's all true. Everything you've ever heard or thought about sex, relationships, love; everything I got right and wrong — it's all true.

It's true that we're all professionals and complete amateurs. We've loved a hundred people but never loved like this before. Oral sex is titillating and terribly awkward. We live gendered lives, but we can think ourselves free and have sex how we want. We stay together forever and we don't. We live very long lives and we don't. Some chances are once in a lifetime, but they could happen every day if you made them. Kinks are hot and terrifying. Sex is holy and immoral. We are minds and bodies. We have to be just friends; we can't be just friends. I love him and I love her and I love you, and it's all true.

I think this is the process of growing up, or maybe the settling in of a liberal arts education. Here at Middlebury we're learning to think, to expand our minds and abandon our preconceptions. We're making room for opposing ideas, finding our own truths and learning to live in the space between question and answer — we're learning to live in tension. It's the space between liking someone and knowing they like you back. It's every unanswered "What if?" It's saying yes to a beautiful present in the face of an uncertain future. It's someone's hands on your face, pulling you just close enough and then letting go — it might happen again, it might have been enough, but I'll live with it, embrace it even. I hope you will hold the tension, too.

If you want to tell me about your tension, you can reach me at lea.calderonguthe@gmail.com. I'll write back.

Taproot property reveals rich educational potential

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Along with Mike Schoenfeld '73, Senior Vice President and Chief Philanthropic Adviser of Middlebury College and Campus photographer Anna Clements '12.5, I piled into Mr. Jackson's Gator for a tour of the whole 377 acres. Ms. Jackson checked to ensure we were properly bundled — "It can get quite cold out there, especially with him driving," she said. Mr. Jackson grinned. With a jolt, the Gator zoomed forward, and I felt the wind pry at my coat as we left the barn and rolled along the tree-lined dirt track.

We drove on to a field enclosed by tall maples and beeches like the cozy sides of an armchair. Looking east I saw a layered landscape of snowy hayfields, the pond and the high peaks behind them.

In the clearing, Mr. Jackson imagined the future of the property as it would be used by students.

Mr. Jackson envisioned a small-scale conference center for 35 people built in the clearing. He imagined small cabins for conference guests behind the site next to a pond.

The Jacksons created the pond by damming a wetland and inserting a pumping system to bring the overflow water back to the top. Along the edge, white cedars stood about 10 feet tall. "The pond seemed lonely," Mr. Jackson said, "so I planted these cedars." When the cedars got lonely, Mr. Jackson added white pines and spruces.

Mr. Jackson has planted 7,500 trees across his property, the most famous of which is the white oak planted along the driveway. It is twice my height but only the width of my arm in diameter. "It doesn't look like much now," he said, "but when you come back for your 20th reunion perhaps it will impress you." White oak is a rare species in Vermont these days because its acorns often mix with those from the more common bur oak.

He led us to his Christmas tree farm amid a deciduous forest. "They're balsam firs because their needles last the longest," he said. He will have to plant more soon because all but 10 had been harvested. I realized that Mr. Jackson and I had different notions of "soon." To me, "soon" is my next deadline. To Mr. Jackson, it is a decade — or in the case of the white oak, a century.

The forest thinned into tall grasses

"When I was in school, one of my favorite books was Thoreau's *Walden*. I thought it might be fun to build a cabin on our pond ... maybe have a student live there for J-term and write about it."

**WILL JACKSON '51
LAND DONOR**

and cattails around a shallow frozen stream. A log sliced lengthwise served as a bench at the stream's edge looking across the grassy wetlands. "This is Carolyn's favorite spot to sit," Mr. Jackson told us.

The driving path narrowed, and branches whapped the front of the four-person Gator. I thought of Mrs. Jackson's warning about the exciting ride, "with him driving." The path was more suited to the nimble hooves of a deer than the balloon tires of our Gator.

When the beavers dammed their pond it flooded part of the forest, leaving a stand of snags pale with the dead wood

exposed under their bark. The beavers left the pond over 10 years ago, when they had run out of their favorite flora, but they might be back in another 10 or 20 years.

We drove to another pond, over a half-mile long with two small islands in the middle colonized by grasses. A green canoe sat at the water's edge. Wind-whipped snow formed rippled patterns on the surface of the ice.

On the eastern edge of the pond was a dark forest of pine. A few gashes of sunlight illuminated the flaky red bark.

"Pines are a pioneer species. They're the first to grow in open land," Mr. Jackson said. "There are a couple of oaks along the trail which could be over 200 years old. I like to think that they were here when the College first started."

Sitting on the eastern end of the property, probably within earshot of the

Mods on a weekend, I looked toward the Adirondacks from the Jackson's own

"Stonehenge" — large grey stones arranged as chairs and a table. I told Mr. Jackson about my favorite assignment from my writing class, in which we had to pick a spot in nature to spend an hour observing and writing about it in a journal. He told me that he'd had a similar idea for this place.

"When I was in school, one of my favorite books was Thoreau's *Walden*. I thought it might be fun to build a cabin on our pond ... maybe have a student live there for J-term and write about it."

Taproot, the name the Jacksons gave to their property, means the deepest root of the plant or tree. That root grows strongly straight down to anchor the tree and hold it upright. The Jacksons seem to provide this unwavering support to their land — and perhaps it works the other way too.



The author sits with Will Jackson '51 at "Stonehedge," a rock table and chair at the Taproot property. Jackson's donation to the College, comprising 377 acres of land, was made official last week.

ANNA CLEMENTS

Snow Bowl persists as student playground

By Geoffrey Brown and
Kirtley Righi

Scant snowfall throughout the state has severely limited winter tourism options, and Middlebury's Snow Bowl is no exception. A decline in number of passes purchased reflects the poor skiing conditions. Snow Bowl is not only a business, but has also been an important part of the Middlebury tradition since the first trails were cleared in 1934.

Today, Snow Bowl's income is primarily dependent on the sale of season passes. The majority of skiers purchase their passes at a discounted price in the off-season. For Middlebury students, the price remains at a low \$160 throughout the year. According to Manager Peter Mackey, the Snow Bowl "typically sells 250-300 season passes early, before the season starts." Once students return from Winter Break, 200-250 additional passes are sold, although Mackey predicts that sales may be lower than usual this year. However, he reports that student sales for season passes are on par with previous years, with a total of 460 sales so far.

Middlebury students are certainly aware of the less-than-ideal conditions, but they are acknowledging the Snow Bowl staff's efforts to maintain the trails and are continuing to enjoy the available trails. "It had a rough start, but conditions are improving," said Alex Beale '14. "There's been some uncharacteristically warm weather, but it's showing signs of improvement."

The scarcity of natural snow coupled with the Snow Bowl's limited ability to create man-made powder has led some Middlebury students to purchase season passes at larger ski resorts.

Kibbom Kim '12, who has been a regular at the Snow Bowl for three years, decided to forgo a season pass this year.

"I usually get a season pass, but not this year. The snow has been pretty bad. My friends and I got passes at Killington." Kim still purchases the occasional day pass at the Snow Bowl: "It's a lot more accessible," he said.

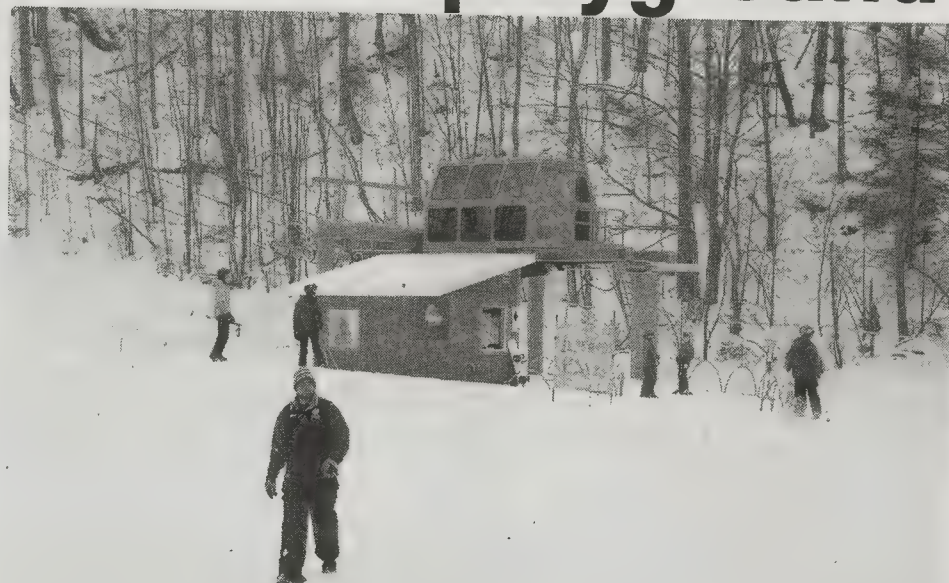
In addition to passes sold to Middlebury students, another 300-400 season passes are typically sold to the general public. Mackey fears that "the folks who haven't picked up their passes yet may only get a couple months of the season in and might think twice next year [before purchasing a full season pass]," he said. "There's probably 25-30 percent more that haven't been redeemed at this point than normal."

Skiers from the town of Middlebury appreciate the Snow Bowl for its affordable ticket prices, friendly atmosphere and easy access. Jim and Carol Edmonds of Hancock, Vt., have skied at the Snow Bowl for three years. "We enjoy it. It's a good level of skiing for us. For what we're looking for, it's perfect," said Jim Edmonds.

The operating cost for the Snow Bowl is roughly \$1 million, which according to Mackey can vary by \$100-200,000 depending on the winter conditions. "Man-made snow is expensive to produce. The bottom line is, without snow making, we wouldn't have been open," he said.

"I think it's safe to say we don't make money," said Mackey, emphasizing the fact that the Snow Bowl is not a typical ski area.

The Snow Bowl is not designed to turn a profit or compete with surrounding ski resorts. "We're serving the college commu-



Skiers take to the slopes of the Snow Bowl during Winter Term. Ski resorts around the state have struggled to lure clients, but Middlebury students still hit the hills.

PAUL GERARD

nity; it's what this place was originally built for," said Mackey.

At the moment, the Snow Bowl has no intention of expanding its facilities with lodging accommodations to directly compete with larger resorts like Killington and Sugarbush. "We know our most important user: the college community. We're keeping with tradition, at a cost," said Mackey.

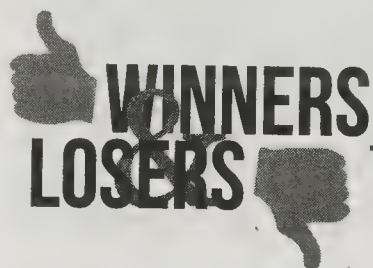
The mountain operates to bring the community outdoors, allow Middlebury students to interact with people from town and provide training ground for the Middlebury ski team.

"It can be hard to force yourself to go

outside of the dorms in the cold," said Beale. "[The] Snow Bowl offers the perfect opportunity for many students to enjoy what the Vermont outdoors has to offer. It's close, there's a discount for Midd students and it's easy to get there."

The Snow Bowl also attracts prospective students. According to Jack Kerby-Miller '14, the mountain was a significant factor in his enrollment at the College. He is now one of the 13 Middlebury student ski instructors.

"The College certainly places a lot of emphasis on having diverse facilities," said Mackey. "Having a ski area sets us apart."



GASTROENTERITIS

Conquers the collective plumb-
ing of the student body.

THE HUNT

Celebrities will agree to tweet
#thehunt2012

SOAP BOXES

Best announcement venue af-
ter all-student emails banned.

COFFRIN PLUMBING

Collective vomiting of student
body conquers plumbing.

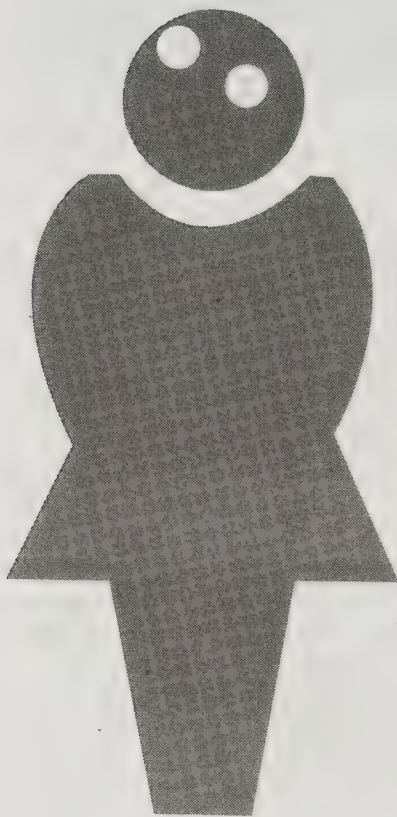
THE HUNTED

Benicio del Toro ignores my
tweet requests to apologize
for idiotic film from 2003.

INBOXES

Annoying announcements
now funneled into Portal.

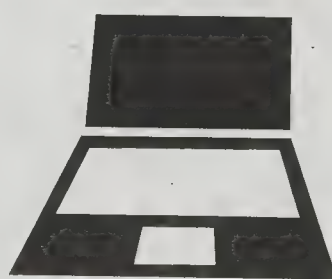
1 SEE
SOMETHING



2 SAY
SOMETHING



3 SEND
SOMETHING



DO YOU
HAVE A
TIP OR AN
IDEA FOR
A STORY?

GO/THECAMPUS

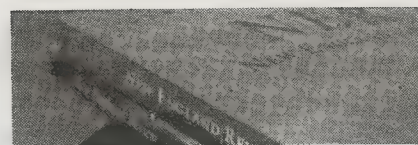
JOIN
US
WRITE FOR
THE CAMPUS

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ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

Check out coverage of
the NER reading series
Page 18



Hairspray! uses its 'clutch' to capture audience

By Santiago Azpurua-Borras

On Thursday, Jan. 26, the Middlebury College Department of Music, in collaboration with the Town Hall Theater, will be opening its doors for the sold-out opening night of *Hairspray!*. The show will play Jan. 26 to 28.

Hairspray! tells the story of Tracy Turnblad, a young girl with aspirations of becoming famous. The musical chronicles her journey to discover what it means to be judged for one's outer appearance.

The show is the latest offspring of a six-year relationship between the College and the Town Hall Theater. The show's director, Winter Term Faculty Member Douglas Anderson, is at the helm of this production, which sold out within the first 48 hours of tickets going on sale.

"That's the testament to the franchise we've created here," said Anderson, "which is this Winter Term musical joint production between the town and the College ... That's how you sell out in 48 hours, you appeal to both groups at once."

Hairspray! was chosen to be this year's Winter Term production because of the large cast it requires, and a necessity for such a large cast brings ample opportunities to many students.

"We wanted to do something that created a lot of opportunities for a lot of people," said Anderson. "So the first thing we're looking for always are musicals that use a lot of people. We pick a piece with a lot of choral opportunities. *Hairspray!* was something [the students] knew, they wanted to be a part of, knew the film ... All those things come into consideration."

Parts of the show will also feature completely original choreography, courtesy of Alicia Evancho '12 and Sarah Lusche '13. Lusche, a veteran in the realm of musical theater with experience as far back as high school, is also a member of the College's RIDDIM troupe.

Lusche explained her experience in the making of this show.

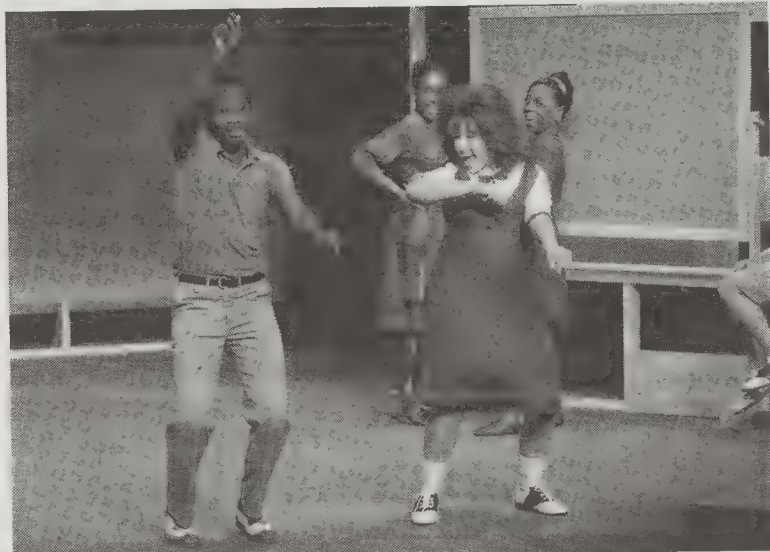
"My favorite part has really been making dances that make the actors and dancers want to dance and that inspire them," Lusche said. "I watch the YouTube videos of the movie or Broadway showing ... A lot of the choreography is my own. I'll 'steal' a few moves here and there but for the most part it's mine."

Lusche also noted that the payoff was well worth it. "I am so excited to see the final product," she said. "This is such a huge show. It's an almost daunting number of dancers and musical numbers. I've been really grateful [Evancho] was choreographing as well."

Mona Quarless '12, who plays Loraine in the show, explained that *Hairspray!* is more than just singing and dancing. It also has a message that goes beyond the call of duty. A major aspect of the show's plot is the integration of African Americans in various aspects of American life such as school and television.

"I also think *Hairspray!*, as far in terms of race relations, could still speak bigger to our community in Middlebury and some of the issues we still face," Quarless said. "*Hairspray!*'s use of caricatures as comedic relief is brilliant. On another note, I think the musical speaks to the ever prevalent reality that in today's media there remains a disparity in roles available to black and white actors."

Indeed, the rehearsals demonstrated pure dedication. The entire cast rehearsed twice a day, similar to the schedule kept by musical theater professionals. The cast is extremely self-motivated; the players that aren't on stage will often go to a separate practice area and run through their routines without any sort of support or supervision. It is evident that every cast member involved is there because of a passion they all share — either singing, dancing or just simply the love of performance. Regardless, one thing that is certain is that in this production, the beat cannot be stopped.



PHOTOS BY ANDREW PODRYGULA



Top Left: Tracy Turnblad (Nejla Esmeralda Calvo '12) swoons over teenage heartthrob Link Larkin (Kyle Drevline '12).

Top Center: Wilbur Turnblad (Nicholas Hemerling '14.5) inspires his daughter Tracy to follow her dreams.

Top Right: Tracy joins in with some of her friends in school.

Bottom Left: Members of the cast in the *The Corny Collins Show* look on at the action in center stage.

Bottom Right: Link serenades the audience with his style and guitar.

**DON'T
MISS
THIS**

Film Screening: Rabbit Hole

The life of a happy couple takes a tragic turn when a car accident leads to the death of their young son. The mother attempts to find closure through a strange relationship with the young graphic novel artist who was the driver of the other car. Tickets free.

1/28, 3 P.M. AND 8 P.M., DANA AUDITORIUM

Harajuku Night

Yamamba, lolita, visual-kei, geisha, traditional kimono and many other of these distinctly Japanese styles will be featured in this fashion show hosted by the Middlebury Japanese Club. After the show, patrons will have an opportunity to take pictures of/with all the models. Refreshments will be served. Free.

1/28, 8 - 10 P.M., CENTER FOR THE ARTS, DANCE THEATRE

Performance by Motown II

This performance is the culmination of the Winter Term Class Motown II taught by Miles Donahue, featuring lead singer Chris Waller's. With Waller's experience as a voice coach, with past pupils such as Whitney Houston, Bobby Brown and TLC. Come watch the Middlebury students from his course perform. Tickets \$6.

2/02, 8 P.M., TOWN HALL THEATER

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT

BY DEIRDRE SACKETT

Winter Term is thought of as a time for skiing, snowboarding, drinking hot cocoa, relaxing with friends and ... understanding arachnophobia?

Professor of Biology Tom Root teaches "Arachnophobia/Arachnophilia," which is focused mostly on discovering and exploring the reasons why people fear or love spiders and their relatives. In their studies, students also discover the wide variety of spiders in the world, as well as related arachnids such as scorpions, tarantulas, daddy-long-legs, lesser known arachnids like whip scorpions or sun spiders, and even ticks and mites.

"I chose to focus this course on arachnids (of which spiders are one kind) because of my long research interest in them," said Root. "Specifically I have done research on scorpions and tarantulas and spiders over my career and have also collected specimens from various parts of the world."

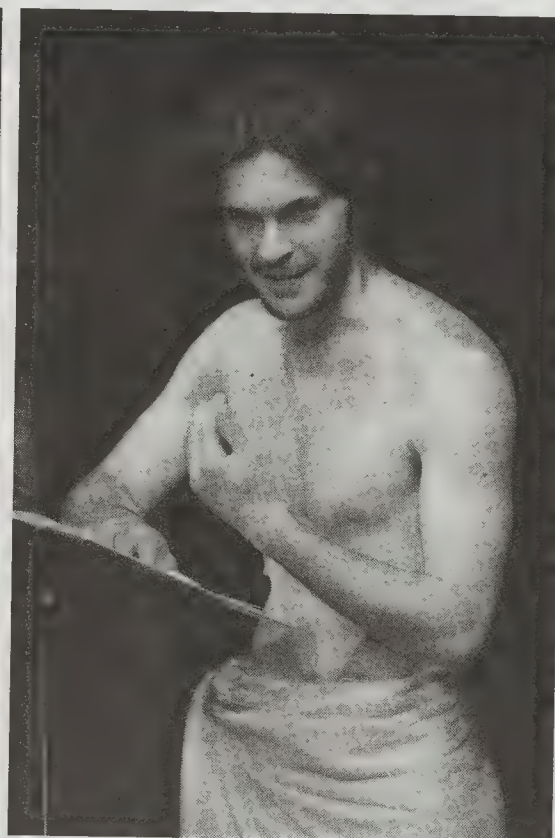
Another aspect of the course is to attempt to understand the classic psychological phobia of spiders ("arachnophobia"), as well as how spiders and other arachnids are portrayed in history, art, media and myth. Students read from a variety of sources focusing on these creepy crawlers, ranging from scientific articles to "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White.

In addition to understanding arachnophobia, Root also wanted to explore aspects of "arachnophilia," or the love of spiders. Students have already presented on an arachnid they found especially interesting, and for the remainder of Winter Term, they will prepare presentations on the evolution of arachnophobia, the animals' role in history and their portrayal in movie and art.

Root noted that the class drew students from all majors around campus, not just biology majors (or aspiring arachnologists). Philosophy major Kyle Williams '13 expressed his pleasure at the structure of the class.

"Though it's a science course, everyone is allowed to stay within their own scientific boundaries and no one needs to feel intimidated for not being a bio major," said Williams.

RADIO THEATRE PUTS LIVE ACTION ON THE AIR



PHOTOS BY ANDREW PODRYGULA

The live *MR | TOTS* show ran in the Hepburn Zoo on Jan. 21. The performance included both live acting as well as real-time radio recording.

Top Left: Dave Seamans '13 plays a tune on his harmonica.

Bottom Left: Hafsa Ahmad Sial '12 reacts to a sudden development.

Top Right: Cedar Attanasio '11.5 removes his shirt in a dramatic scene.

Bottom Right: Dustin Lowman '15 was not apart of the show at first but quickly joined when the cast required a volunteer from the audience.

ONE LIFE LEFT

BY SANTIAGO AZPURUA-BORRAS

The Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game (MMORPG) is an interesting genre in the realm of video games as it is often called upon in the realm of film and televisions to show just how terrible gamers are as people (I'm looking at you, *SVU*). The most famous MMO, *World of Warcraft* (*WoW*) has been in the spotlight this generation, and the attention was not always good. With over 10 million subscribers, it has generated its own sub-culture. Many games have tried to take its throne (*Rift*, *The Old Republic* and *Guild Wars*, just to name a few) as the MMO king. In my opinion, the biggest problem with this genre is that all other MMOs try too much to be like *WoW*, in order to capture its massive market. While a good idea on paper, in execution it just leads to unavoidable comparisons, and in the eyes of the majority *WoW* will always rein supreme.

Here's where *Wakfu* comes in. Its battle system is unlike anything the MMO genre has ever seen, and I'm still not too sure if that's a good or a bad thing.

Wakfu is actually a sequel to an immensely popular European MMO called *Dofus*. *Dofus* as a whole is a franchise that includes its own manga-esque series of graphic novels, none of which has hit North American shores. *Wakfu* is also the title of a popular French children's cartoon (that I highly recommend, especially if you're a fan of shows such as *Avatar: The Last Airbender*) with its own line of toys; again, none of this has hit our local shores. *Wakfu* the MMO is the first of this series to ever be accessible widely by North America.

As an open beta, anyone can sign up and download the client for free online. The game is also currently free to play, but I predict that once the game reaches full release sometime in February, this will change. If *Dofus* is any indicator, it will be about six dollars a month, less than half of a typical *WoW* subscription.

The first thing one will notice about the game is that it is very pretty, with vibrant colors washing over the main map. Other players' characters run around frantically wearing goofy-looking gear made out of dead creatures and as such they go about their business. The character creation features 14 different races, which act as classes. They range from the traditional such as the "Iop," a straightforward character, to the more obscure, such as the Sandidas, a class that uses dolls to affect combat. Each class has 15 different spells as well as eight specialties. I created Sceletus, a Sram character. The Srams are your assassin-esque characters; they specialize in moving quickly and doing lots of quick attacks for a lot of damage.

The combat system is where *Wakfu* truly differentiates itself from any other RPG. The combat is completely turn-based, even in PvP. Much like *Final Fantasy Tactics* or *Tactics Ogre*, combat begins when one challenges a non-player creature or other character. A small, closed battleground is formed automatically and the combat begins. Each player takes one turn in which they use three different kinds of points: movement, action and *Wakfu*. Movement points allow the player to move across the battleground, and action points are spent to attack or activate spells/abilities. After every turn these points are replenished completely. Then there are the *Wakfu* points, which are used to activate your class-specific abilities, such as my Double. These points do not replenish after every turn.

The combat is just simple enough to attract many who would otherwise not enjoy these types of games, but also complicated in the sense that there is a lot of planning necessary to make the most use out of your character.

That being said, I am noticing some serious balancing issues within the game. The Enripisas, the game's healers, do little to no damage, have low HP and cannot even heal that properly.

Two of the game's biggest features are its ecosystem and government systems. The ecosystem within the game is completely player-driven, so if a group of players decide that they really don't like a certain type of enemy, it is possible to kill all of them in an area quickly enough so that they can no longer reproduce and essentially making them extinct. This same mechanism also goes for the plant life. There are actually entire guilds dedicated to the purpose of wiping out all plant life. I have no idea why one would want to do this, as there are no rewards, but I really enjoy the fact that this is even possible. It shows a game world that is constantly evolving and being shaped by the players that inhabit it.

The government system is also fascinating; within the world of *Wakfu* there are four nations, each of which the player can choose to join. Each nation is run by a governor, an actual player who is then tasked to set things such as taxes, protect the environment, set laws and catch outlaws who violate said laws.

These laws can range from things like hunting seasons or how much people can charge for certain items. Outlaws are players who violate these laws, and basically become open season for everyone else. Anyone who can defeat the outlaw will be rewarded a bounty and the outlaw will not be able to play the game for a specified amount of time.

The governor must also manage the nation's budget, and the fact that this sentence even exists just shows the insane, almost unnecessary levels of depth this game can come to.

Elections, which are also player-run, occur every two weeks and votes are actually cast by players of that particular nation. It's a fun system and completely mind-boggling that someone would spend enough time in a game to actually run for office. The entire idea baffles me, but I love it and hope to see it grow as the game approaches release.

Like everything else in the game, the economy is also completely player-run. There are no non-player merchants/vendors, nor do enemies drop money as most traditional RPGs do, so all money must come from other players buying and selling their extra gear or keys too.

But with all this being said, *Wakfu* faces one major problem. The game feels aimless. With the exception of a few achievements to be earned, there are no formal quests. The player can do whatever he or she wants. If you're playing with a group, it's a ton of fun, but if you're soloing, it can feel boring. Adding a small narrative or just some side quests with experience points as a reward would really create the extrinsic motivation that a game like this needs to survive.

Overall I believe *Wakfu* is shaping up to be a great game, but I cannot help but feel that I would not pay a subscription fee for this, especially if this feeling of aimlessness continues.

But as it stands, as a free to play game, it's great, especially if you can find some friends to sign up with you and play together. I will not be giving *Wakfu* a score because it is still in the beta stage and is not a complete product yet. But as the release date draws near, keep your eyes open as this one is worth watching.

Poetry and sunken ships create a rich *NER* reading

By Nora Fiore

In a sparsely populated state of small towns, opportunities for writers to perform their works and gain feedback from listeners remain few and far between — which is why the *New England Review* (*NER*) decided to do something to bring together writers and their audiences. The *NER* Vermont Reading Series, the brainchild of Carolyn Kuebler, managing editor of *NER*, and organized by Kuebler's husband, editor Christopher Ross, makes a distinct contribution to Middlebury literary culture. Last Thursday, Jan. 19, marked the fourth in a series of seasonal coffee-house-style happenings that are fast becoming a town tradition. Laid-back but packed with eager listeners, Carol's Hungry Mind Café provided a cozy setting for the event.

First on the program, Colchester resident Chloë Joan López presented works from her chapbook, *Quodlibet*. Her pieces ran the gamut from the anecdotally romantic to the transcendently fierce, including several blistering, intimate poems from what she calls "my Burning Poems." In order to optimally connect with her audience, she offered insights into her process. Her revealing contextualization helped to engage with the specific risks and rewards of a public reading. How can a writer tap into a visceral rapport with the audience without losing the nuances of his or her works? López rose to the challenge and explained how she wove Freudian dream analysis, astronomical nomenclature and Biblical edicts about marriage and desire into her terse, deeply personal free verse.

Next, Neil Shepard treated his audience to selections from his fourth poetry collection, *(T)ravel/Un(t)ravel*. Remembering journeys to China, Greece, France and South America, Shepard dissected sensations of otherness through his vivid word paintings of the sounds, textures and colors of faraway places. Sometimes riotously funny, sometimes bitterly disillusioned in voice, his reading choices sought to upturn travel writing tropes while confronting themes of identity in the face of obstacles.

Burlington-based poet Daniel Lusk followed with ex-

cerpts from his collection, *Lake Studies*. Intrigued by reports on fleets of sunken ships, fossils and all manner of debris discovered in the bed of Lake Champlain through the use of sonar, Lusk plunged himself into years of research into the geological, social and economic history of the body of water. The resulting volume of contemplative poems captures both the serenity and the threatening power of the lake. Lusk reoriented himself within the space of the lake, imagined it both from the surface and the depths, channeled its melancholy mystery and even transfigured Champ, the mythical lake monster, into something more than an inside joke. His luminous style and curiosity revived local lore in order to create a buoyant portrait of the lake in its arcane glory.

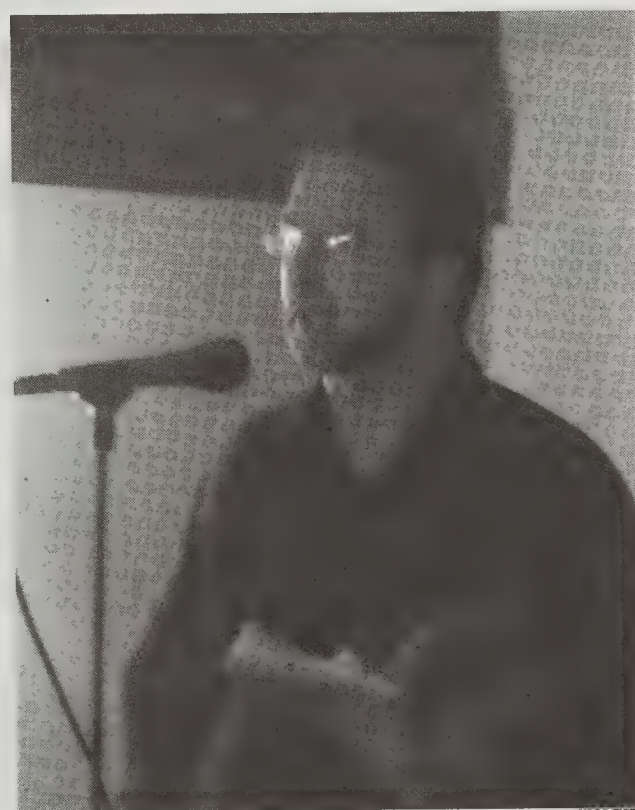
Lusk praised the unique alchemy that binds a receptive, tight-knit audience with an author looking to see his own works reflected in listeners' reactions.

"Nothing is more gratifying than a live audience like the one the *NER* series attracts: readers and writers from the literary community," Lusk said. "It is a privilege for writers to be in such company, to bring what we have and to share the generous responses of friends and neighbors."

He also expressed his thanks to Christopher Ross and the dedicated staff of Carol's Hungry Mind.

"Our work [as writers] complements the efforts of volunteers and coffee house proprietors who create these opportunities," Lusk said.

Journalist, social commentator and Charlotte resident Steven Kiernan '82 rounded off the event with the night's only prose piece, a reading from his first major foray into narrative fiction. The project, a sociopolitical science-fiction novel, explores the implications of a modern resurrection, the reanimation of a 200-year-old sea captain recovered from a frozen shipwreck by a team of biologists. Kiernan chose to embody one of his characters by reading a chapter written in the form of a dramatic monologue in which the miracle man recalls the joys and regrets of his previous existence. Evoking a tone of humor



Neil Shepard read excerpts from his fourth poetry collection, *(T)ravel/Un(t)ravel* at Carol's Hungry Mind Café.

and nostalgia, the narrator's unblinking outsider perspective on technology and ethics also pointed out some of the flaws in so-called modern culture.

The Vermont Reading Series stands out because of its atmosphere of proximity between artists and listeners, its feel of mutual respect and its welcome genuineness. If you crave thought-provoking writing shared in a refreshingly relaxed forum, don't miss out on the next reading.

SPECTRUM OF MEDIUMS, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART EXHIBITION

By Eliza Wallace

The Middlebury College Museum of Art is installing a new exhibition that will engage with a diverse collection of powerful, multi-media works from contemporary African artists. The visiting exhibition, titled "Environment and Object: Recent African Art," is on tour from its original showing in the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College. Open to visitors on Friday, Jan. 27, the gallery walls will hold everything from Bright Ugochukwu Eke's *Ripples and Storm 1*, huge concentric circles of plastic water and soda bottles, to George Osodi's 2007 *Oil Spill Near Farm Land Ogoni*, an intense photograph of a flaming oil spill billowing black smoke.

"I don't believe we've ever exhibited works of such a broad range of materials in one exhibit," said Emmie Donadio, chief curator of the Middlebury College Museum of Art. "Often exhibits have a shared medium, but this has everything."

Donadio believes that visitors to the new exhibition will be most surprised at the variety of materials in the pieces and the differing sophistication of the mediums with works using everything from found garbage to digital media. The contributing artists are all from Africa origi-

nally and now live elsewhere, have spent time there or still work and live there. Artists like Eke, El Anatsui and Romuald Hazoumé create sculptural pieces from found objects to ground their underlying meaning in the environment where those objects were collected, giving the works a sense of place. Hazoumé's work speaks deeply to Donadio, who appreciates his transformation of found objects into intriguing and meaningful sculptures.

"The artists are working with very specific local environments in some cases, incorporating garbage or found objects. Some works use these objects humorously and some use them as bearers of political meaning," said Donadio.

Barthélémy Toguo of Cameroon employs incisive political humor in his staged photographs with titles like *Stupid African President 1*. The aluminum wrappers that make up Anatsui's metal "cloth" pieces are from the tops of liquor bottles from distilleries near his home in Nigeria, giving the pieces geographic specificity, cultural as well as aesthetic resonance of the place.

Yinka Shonibare, one of the most internationally recognized artists featured in the exhibition is known for his headless, life-sized human sculptures engaged in various activities and dressed in color-

ful batik fabrics. In "Environment and Object," his piece *Black Gold II* is a large splash of black paint across the wall with gold and yellow patterned canvas disks in the center, an abstracted nod to the role of oil in Nigeria.

"African oil acts as a leitmotif in many pieces," said Donadio.

Despite the wild variation in mediums and approaches, Donadio noted that, "all the works in the exhibition have a common denominator, even though there is so much variation and the artists present many different points of view."

The consideration of "urban, natural and economic environments," and in some cases degradation of these environments, ties the wide range of pieces together. As written in the exhibition description on the Museum website, "all [artists] decisively reject romanticized perceptions of Africa and conditions which concern it."

Donadio believes that the exhibition will provide relevancy for those studying anything from African Studies, to geography, to contemporary urban planning, and has even encouraged professors from the History to the Environmental Studies departments to take advantage of the exhibit.

In a Jan. 13 Off the Wall discussion

of "Environment and Object," Ken Pohlman, the Museum designer, spoke of some environmental challenges of his own when figuring out how to translate the exhibition from the display space in the 3,500 square feet at the Tang to the much smaller gallery space of 1,600 square feet at the Middlebury College Museum of Art. This involves some re-interpretation of the show in the space. One way he has solved spatial problems is by adding walls. These walls give dimension and movement to the room as well as fulfilling the basic need for more wall space so each artist's work can stand out individually, yet still cohere in the experience of the entire exhibition.

The exhibition will run from Jan. 27 to April 22, but the official opening celebration will be in the Museum on the evening of Feb. 16. In terms of extended programming, the Museum hopes to coordinate some events with Umoja (the united African nation's student group on campus) in addition to its series of talks organized in conjunction with "Environment and Object."

Look for the soon-to-arrive catalog that will accompany the exhibition with essays and interviews by various scholars. Much of the Museum's programming can also be found in the current Arts calendar.

BOOKING IT

BY MOLLY TALBERT

Train Dreams by Denis Johnson (winner of the National Book Award in 2007 for *Tree of Smoke*) is proof that within brevity lies enormous power.

The novella, a mere 116 pages in hard-cover, took me only a day to read, yet many days later, it has not left me. My mind is continually haunted by the story of the hard working Robert Grainier and the silent devotion that he has for his dead wife and dead baby daughter.

Set in Idaho in the summer of 1917, this book will speak to anyone with roots to the old Wild West or to anyone who has ever dreamed of that rough and tumble, raw time of American history.

For much of his life, Robert works as a logger in the dense forests of Idaho, reminding one of Ken Kesey's

Sometimes a Great Notion — a book about a logging family in Oregon.

In Kesey's novel, though, it is the environment that acts as a character of its own, always overshadowing the protagonists, whereas in Johnson's novella, the sadness of Robert's character is what overshadows the book and creates the pallor that is sensed between the lines and is hard to shake once the last word is read.

It is the story that explains what is in the thoughts of those old, wrinkled, silent men one sometimes wonders about — what could his story be? What are the thoughts behind that grey beard? What were the hardships in his life that have muted him?

Train Dreams depicts the quiet, simple life of a hard-working man of the West elegantly and with dignity, never putting on airs. It honestly shows the sort of men who helped build this country, the sort of life that was lived on the frontier and the hardships that were endured with no word of complaint.

Set in an era of immense change, Robert is an ordi-

nary man trying to make sense of the changing world. World War I is still raging yet the tents in which Robert and the other loggers sleep are remnants from the Civil War, with the blood stains to prove that they saw battle — showing the juxtaposition between past and present that Robert is quietly dealing with.

Another comparison between past and present is shown when Robert helps a friend move to another town.

While Robert's friend has decided to use his new truck, Robert opts for his two horses and cart (a mode of transport he's always used), which are actually about as fast as the car since they don't overheat the way the engine does.

Train Dreams is an interesting and haunting snapshot of an American life that normally doesn't get a voice in literature.

Although there isn't very much action and we rarely ever hear Robert speak, the story line pulls the reader, ever fascinated by the life of this quiet yet thoughtful man, seamlessly to the ending line.

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A detailed inspection of the athletics budget

CONTINUED FROM 24

crosse coach, as an assistant men's soccer coach. He's never played soccer before but he's a really good coach. Missy Foote [the head coach of the women's lacrosse team] is also the P.E. Director. Every department in the NCAA has a senior woman administrator. She's our senior woman administrator so that makes her an Associate Athletic Director. Bob Smith is [the head] baseball [coach] but he also does intramurals. Everybody has a robust second assignment."

While the average annual per-athlete spending cost is virtually the same for men's and women's teams, there is a relatively high discrepancy between the average salaries for the head coaches of men's and women's programs. Head coaches of men's teams had an average salary of \$38,387 last year, while head coaches of women's teams made an average of \$31,111. Not all women's teams are coached by women, however, and the same is true for the men's teams as well. Bill Mándigo is the head coach of the women's golf and women's ice hockey teams and Peter Kim is the head coach of the women's soccer team, to name two, while Nicole Wilkerson coaches the cross-country team, which has a combined roster of male and female runners. A similar discrepancy between the salary of men's and women's head coaches does not exist at Amherst (men's team's head coaches had an average salary of \$77,512 and women's team's head coaches averaged \$76,661 in salary per annum) though Williams did have a similar imbalance (men's head coaches made \$34,297 on average while women's head coaches' salaries averaged \$28,357).

While the \$7,000 difference in average salary is a significant margin, considerable differences in experience and length of tenure could be creating the higher average salary for head coaches of men's teams.

"Since I have been Director of Athletics, I have looked at years of experience coaching, not the particular sport, when making offers," Quinn said. "So, coaches with roughly the same amount of experience would receive roughly the same salary. Right now we have more experience on our men's teams than our women's teams, primarily due to several long-time members of the department, so that would tend to push the men's salaries higher."

Quinn's explanation would suggest that, in the future, head coaches of women's teams would be just as likely to have a higher average yearly salary as their male counterparts. And, as coaching salaries change on yearly basis, so too do operating budgets for a particular team. On a year-to-year basis, some teams will see spikes in their expenses. For example, at the outset, the men's and women's basketball team have very similar budgets on a consistent basis. In the 2010 fiscal year, however, the men's basketball budget saw an increase in expenses — a result of their deep NCAA Tournament run that brought the Panthers all the way to Salem.

"If you did per-athlete costs based on what's budgeted for men's and women's basketball, the women are going to get more money per athlete because they

have the same budget [but fewer players]." Quinn said. "[But] because men's basketball has gone deep into the playoffs for several years now all that money [that] looks like it's being spent on men's basketball is all NCAA and NESCAC play-off money."

For the 2010 fiscal year, the men's overall budget totaled \$147,793 while the women's team incurred a more modest budget of \$111,467 after losing in the opening round of the NESCAC Tournament and failing to qualify for the NCAA Tournament. A projection of the two teams for fiscal year 2011 demonstrates the similarities between the two budgets as the men's team's projected operating budget, which includes expenses for food, lodging, and equipment is \$10,251 and the women's expenses are expected to be \$9,950.

With other sports such as men's and women's lacrosse and men's and women's hockey there is a substantial difference in the budget allotted to both teams given the different equipment requirements of the teams and the contact endured by the equipment.

"The men's lacrosse budget is going to be bigger than the women's lacrosse budget," explained Quinn. "Relatively speaking, per person, women's lacrosse tends to spend more than men's lacrosse. A men's lacrosse team is going to have anywhere between 40 or 45 guys. Most women's lacrosse teams are 20 to 25 women. [The] men's lacrosse [team needs] helmets, shoulder pads, arm pads, really expensive gloves and expensive sticks, that because it's a contact sport and because there's heavy checking, expensive sticks that break. [The] women's lacrosse [team needs] goggles, sticks and uniforms. I don't know at the collegiate level but you probably could get by with one stick for a whole year. There's some checking, but it's really controlled checking."

The same is true for men's and women's hockey, which is reflected in the teams' respective game-day operating budgets. While the men's team's operating budget of \$70,765 is, on average, higher than the women's average game-day operating budget of \$60,226 the women's hockey team spends considerably more in operating expenses per person than the men's hockey team. The teams spend \$2,509 and \$1,141 respectively in average game-day operating expenses per student-athlete.

Despite what some people may consider ample budget recourses for athletics, both coaches and players feel the strain of the budget.

"As big as our budget is, virtually all of our athletes incur personal costs to play [a sport]," said Quinn.

When Quinn became the Director of

Athletics in July of 2006, many different teams had been level-funded for a considerable period and were in need of additional resources. In order to provide relief for budget-strapped programs, Quinn and a group of other administrators as well as

members from the budgeting office created the Blue and White Fund as a way to incentivize parents and alumni to donate monetary gifts to a specific team. One of those programs was Quinn's previous unit, the men's lacrosse team.

"[The men's lacrosse team] had been level-funded for a long time, equipment costs had gone way up, travel costs had gone way up, [so we decided,] maybe we can target an amount of money

where the endowment for that money would spin off and cover all of our expenses that are budgeted but also create a little bit of a cushion that's comfortable for the College, comfortable for my colleagues and is the carrot for the donor."

Quinn was able to endow a sizeable part of the men's lacrosse budget and has moved gradually from one team to another trying to endow the budget of every team. While the downturn in the economy over the last few years has slowed the process considerably, the athletics department has seen some success, particularly with the decision to create an individual Blue and White Fund for every team rather than a comprehensive slush fund that would serve the athletics department more generally.

"We feared by throwing it into one big pot, people [wouldn't want to donate money]," reasoned Quinn. "People are much more motivated to give to their specific program."

Individual or group donors can then set a goal regarding how much money they want to raise for their team. If a program with an operating budget of \$15,000 raises \$400,000 for the endowment of its program, the five percent spin-off gives the team an operating budget of \$20,000, which gives the coach \$5,000 of flexibility to spend on rooms or meals for the team — something Quinn would have put to good use during his tenure as the men's lacrosse coach.

"When I was coaching men's lacrosse, it [cost] \$500 for every breakfast," he said. "That was our pregame meal. The budget isn't even coming close to providing you with a \$500 breakfast. It's just a standard breakfast. So if you're giving the lacrosse coach \$5,000 extra you're saying, 'this might help relieve some pressure on meals' [and] you're not saying, 'if we eat breakfast today where are going to make up that money?' This kind of takes the pressure off. So that's what a Blue and White Fund is — the endowment for a sport."

Perhaps the best example of the success of the Blue and White Fund so far is the field hockey team. After raising enough money to completely endow its operating budget of food, equipment and some other miscellaneous pieces, the team had enough money left over to upgrade the locker room and incorporate a new video system to watch game tape.

Ultimately, however, the amount of money a group of parents or alumni can raise for a specific program is limited.

"When all of those gifts are in, [the budget office] will say, 'for the upcoming year you have \$5000 extra for field hockey' because their budget is fully-endowed. We cap how much above their budget they can go," Quinn said. "What we would do is start budget-relieving some of those existing things rather than allowing the program to get richer and richer and richer. We try to endow the things the athletes and coaches feel the most benefit from, and that is hotels, meals and equipment."

The benefits of the Blue and White Fund have been felt by teams that are still waiting to be endowed. Head football coach Bob Ritter has, like the field hockey team, used the budget relief to improve the team's technology.

"[The Blue and White Fund] has [affected our team] for a lot of one-time purchases and then for a lot of things that have come about in the technological world," Ritter said. "Since budgets have been level-funded, a lot of computer programs that we use and a lot of digital technology that we use for video has come from fundraising."

Ritter believes the new fundraising mechanism has been a hit and echoed Quinn's sentiments about the fund's effectiveness.

"I think that it has been successful in that a lot of alums are more apt to donating money when they know concretely where it's going and what it's going to help," he said. "So in that way it has allowed us to fundraise some money that we may not have raised before, and it's also allowed us to purchase some things that we may not have deemed essential."

Men's basketball head coach, Jeff Brown, meanwhile, hopes the Blue and White Fund will give his players the opportunity to compete in another region of the country at some point during their career at Middlebury.

"The biggest thing from my end is to occasionally take a special trip and to give our student-athletes one of those out of region trips in the course of their four years," he said. "Four years ago we were able to go to Florida and play in a tournament down in Daytona Beach."

As the economy slowly recovers from one of the worst downturns in decades, coach Brown and the athletics department have tremendous reason to be excited for the future of the Blue and White Fund. Most of all, the effects of increased fund-raising will not be felt only by the 28 percent of the student body who are members of an athletic team, but by the entire student body. Quinn and the athletics department — propelled by the Blue and White Fund — are in the planning stages of renovating the existing field house, a change that will reverberate throughout the campus.

Athletic budget highlights

Average Head Coaches' Salaries

| MEN'S | WOMEN'S |
|----------|----------|
| \$38,379 | \$31,111 |

Average annual recruiting expenses

| MEN'S | WOMEN'S |
|----------|---------|
| \$16,663 | \$6,496 |

Average annual per-athlete operating expenses

| MEN | WOMEN |
|---------|---------|
| \$1,515 | \$1,476 |

SOURCE: U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION, DEPT. OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, DATA FROM FY 2010

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Ski teams combine for third place finish

By Martin Breu

The Panthers kicked off their 2012 ski season with a strong third place finish at the Bates Carnival Jan. 20 and 21. University of Vermont picked up where they left off last season, taking the top spot on the podium, followed by Dartmouth in second. Trailing University of New Hampshire after the first day, Middlebury had a strong second day to take the final podium spot.

"[The team is] happy, but not content," said nordic team coach Andrew Gardner. Although the team collected a number of impressive results in the opening weekend, the Panthers will be looking for more in the coming weeks.

The most impressive performances of the weekend for the Panthers came from the men's alpine team and nordic tri-captain Patrick Johnson '12. Led by back-to-back fourth place finishes by Hig Roberts '14, the alpine men lit up the trails, finishing in second place both days. Johnson, returning to Middlebury after a year away, quickly reasserted his presence on the Eastern college circuit with first and third place finishes.

The weekend's races were held at Sunday River for the alpine and Black Mountain for the nordic. While there has been minimal natural snow this winter, race conditions were good thanks to a lot of

man-made snow.

The Bates Carnival began with giant slalom (GS) race for the alpine racers. UVM set the tone for the weekend with a sweep of the men's podium, behind Bobby Farrell's first place finish. Middlebury, however, was not far behind. Roberts took fourth, Captain Bryan Shpall '13 was fifth and Andrew McNealus '13 was seventh to capture the second place team score. (A reminder for our readers: the top three skiers for each school score points.)

In the women's GS race, UVM was dominant again, taking three of the top four spots, with Kristina Riis-Johannessen capturing top honors. It was a tough day for the Middlebury women, however. Captain Christine Schozer '13 was the top finisher for the Panthers in 35th place, followed by first-years Yina Moe-Lange '15 and Katelyn Barclay '15 in 42nd and 44th places respectively. The struggles on the slopes gave the alpine women a 10th place finish.

Over on the cross-country trails, the nordic ski teams raced a 5/10km skate race for both the women and men. Johnson skied a smart and controlled race to take the victory over Sam Tarling of Dartmouth. Ben Lustgarten '14 picked up where he left off last year with a strong 15th place finish, while tri-captain Chase Marston '12 was right behind in 16th. The Panther men ended the day in third place behind Dartmouth

and UVM.

In the women's race, it was UVM again on the top of the podium, with Lucy Garrec taking the win over Catamount teammate Caitlin Patterson. For Middlebury, the race was a chance to showcase their new crop of super fast first-years. Annie Pokorny '15 impressed in her first carnival, taking ninth place for the Panthers, while Rachel Hall '15 and Stella Holt '15 were not far behind in 15th and 17th places respectively. With three skiers in the top 20, the Panther women tied UNH for fourth place, a mere five points out of third.

At the end of the first day of racing, UVM was first, Dartmouth second, and UNH in third. Middlebury was fourth, just 13 points behind the Wildcats.

The second day of the Bates Carnival began with slalom races for the Alpine racers. UVM wasted no time in demonstrating that they were there to win, again sweeping the men's podium behind a win by Tim Kelley. Roberts skied another impressive race to take fourth, again just missing the podium. With McNealus and Shpall not far off the pace in seventh and 19th, the Panther men again captured the second place team score.

In the women's race, UVM again was on top of the podium with a win by Elli Terwiel. The Middlebury women rebounded in a big way with Schozer leading the charge

with an eighth place finish. Barclay and Moe-Lange were again the second and third place finishers for the Panthers, in 12th and 29th respectively. With three skiers in the top 30, the Middlebury women took the sixth place team score.

Back on the cross-country trails, the Nordic skiers took on a 10-km mass start classic race. In the men's race, Dartmouth collected their first win of the weekend with Eric Packer in the top spot. Johnson was not far behind, however, and finished third for his second podium of the weekend. Lustgarten continued to impress with a ninth place finish, while Marston was 18th. The Panthers performance earned them a third place finish, just four points behind second place UVM.

In the women's race, UVM returned to the podium in remarkable fashion, taking four of the top five spots behind Caitlin Patterson's individual win. Pokorny had a great race to lead the Panthers with another ninth place finish. Co-captain Sophie McClelland '12 had a strong race to finish 11th, and Holt rounded out the scoring by placing 22nd. The Panther women ended the day in fourth, again just behind UNH.

The Panthers will look to continue their strong start to the season next weekend at the UNH Carnival. The teams have four carnivals left before the Middlebury Carnival, which will take place Feb. 24 and 25.

Men's hockey team splits weekend series

By Alex Edel

The men's hockey team had another up and down weekend as they beat rival Colby (3-13-0) on Saturday but were shut out 5-0 by Bowdoin (10-4-2) on Sunday. The loss to Bowdoin marked the first time Middlebury has lost to the Polar Bears since 2007. The Panthers swept the Maine teams earlier in the season, but were not able to complete their earlier success against the Polar Bears who have won seven of their last nine and are unbeaten in six straight, including wins over the other top teams in the NESCAC, Amherst, Williams and on Saturday, Jan. 21, Middlebury.

In the Panthers' game on Friday, Jan. 20, at Colby, the Mules got ahead early with a goal just 2:46 into the first period, but the Panthers fought back as Nick Resor '12 gave the visitors a boost, scoring his first goal of the season 13:15 into the first period in his first game of the season after recovering from an injury that had sidelined him for the first thirteen games of the season. Middlebury added a second goal with just over two minutes remaining in the period

off a power play as Charles Nerbak '12 netted an assist from George Ordway '15 and Trevor Pollock '13.

The second period went scoreless for both teams, although the Panthers held a shot advantage of 8-6 over the Mules. With a 2-1 lead going into the third period, Resor — making his triumphant return to the ice — scored his second goal of the game off of an assist from Chris Steele '13 and Louis Belisle '14. John Yancheck '12 saved 19 shots on goal for his seventh win of the season and 40th career win. Middlebury held a 23-19 shot advantage, which the team capitalized on for its sixth NESCAC win.

After beating Colby in Waterville, Maine, the Panthers traveled to Clewiston and hosts Bowdoin. Following a 7-1 decimation on the opening weekend of the winter season for both Middlebury and Bowdoin, at Kenyon Arena, the Polar Bears have found their stride. Following a 4-3 loss to Trinity on Jan. 3, Bowdoin has been unbeaten in its last eight NESCAC games and proved to be too strong for the Panthers.

The home team shocked Middlebury with a shorthanded goal just 2:08 into the first period, and then increased its lead to 2-0 with just over a minute left in the first period — this time on a power play. The second period mimicked the first as the Polar Bears scored early in the period, and then again 14 minutes in, to increase their lead to 4-0.

The Polar Bears added the final touches to a 5-0 blanking of the Panthers in the final period when first-year forward, John McGinnis scored his second goal of the game and eighth of the season with 15:24 remaining. First-year net-minder Dan Fullman '15 made the first start of his career for the Panthers. Fullman made 27 saves for the Panthers, who were out shot by the Polar Bears 32-21.

In the team's latest game against rival team Norwich, the Panthers were again shut out 5-0 on the road. Norwich came out extremely strong in the first period, and the Panthers seemed to have a hard time getting into the game. In the first period Norwich was able to score four goals against the Panthers. Their first goal came

just one minute into the game, and they then followed with goals at 10:27, 11:32 and 13:39 in the first period.

The second period proved less successful for the Cadets, but they were still able to score one goal 14:57 into the second period, making the score 4-0 going into the third period.

The third period proved scoreless for both teams, leading to a final 5-0 loss for the Panthers. The Cadets had a shooting advantage of 24-15 over the Panthers, leading to their ultimate success.

The Panther's record has now fallen to 7-7-2 overall. This game marked the team's last non-NESCAC game in regular season play. Last year the Panthers played the Cadets in early February, resulting in a 4-4 OT tie. However in an early season game last year, the Panthers were shut out by the Cadets 3-0.

Middlebury hosts Connecticut College Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m. in a rematch of its early season 4-0 win over its conference foes. The Panthers have eight games remaining to stabilize their record before entering the postseason.

EDITORS' PICKS

Who will score higher at Williams — men's or women's swimming?

Will men's basketball beat Williams by more than 9 points?

Who will record the most points (goals and assists) for women's hockey over the weekend?

Will skiing finish in the top three at the UNH carnival this weekend?

Who are more obnoxious — Boston sports fans or New York sports fans?

CAREER RECORD



OWEN TEACH

WOMEN'S

Not sure I have any idea how one scores in a swim meet.

NO

Middlebury still gets the win.

MAGGIE MELBER '12

She has a team leading 11 points in conference

YES

If there is any snow....

BOSTON

I guess we'll find out Feb. 5.

2-3 (.400)



DAMON HATHEWAY

WOMEN'S

I'm really hoping the plague of 2012 doesn't decide that one. What a shame that would be.

NO

I couldn't be reverse jinxing this or Tebowing or planking any harder.

LAUREN GREER '13

Greer is the only player besides Hannah Bielawski '15 averaging a point per game.

YES

My research skills failed me on this one. This is a bigger toss up than Alex and Owen's battle for 3rd.

THE COMBINATION

Think Yankees fans are bad? Or Patriots fans? Try both. Yep, THOSE exist.

35-25 (.583)



DILLON HUPP

WOMEN'S

Alex, I'm blaming you if I get this one wrong.

NO

These guys have had too many easy victories lately. It's time for them to sweat one out.

MAGGIE MELBERG '12

Senior leadership for the win.

YES

Now please stop sending me angry emails. It hurts my feelings and makes me cry.

BOSTON

See the column for complete details. "Tahm Bray-dee is the best quatahback evahhhh."

93-79 (.541)



ALEX EDEL

WOMEN'S

Although things might be hard this weekend considering the gastro hit the team hard.

YES

I would say a panther beats out a purple cow by more than nine points any day.

SARAH UGALDE '14

She has consistently stood out this year.

YES

Although I am not quite sure how they are going to compete seeing as it rained two days ago.

.....

I'm from the West Coast; I have no experience with either fan base.

52-56 (.481)

Men's, women's swimming sweeps Union

By Kevin Yochim

It was another dominant weekend for the Middlebury men's and women's swimming and diving teams, which cruised to easy wins over Union College at home on Saturday Jan. 21. The men won 174-124 and have advanced to 3-5 on the season. The women crushed the Dutchwomen 227-67, moving to an impressive 7-1 this year.

The men started off the day with an exciting half-second victory in the 200-yard medley relay, led by an impressive 20.76 split from Nick Daly '12 in the anchor freestyle leg. The "B" relay team finished only 0.38 seconds behind Union, easily securing third place in the event.

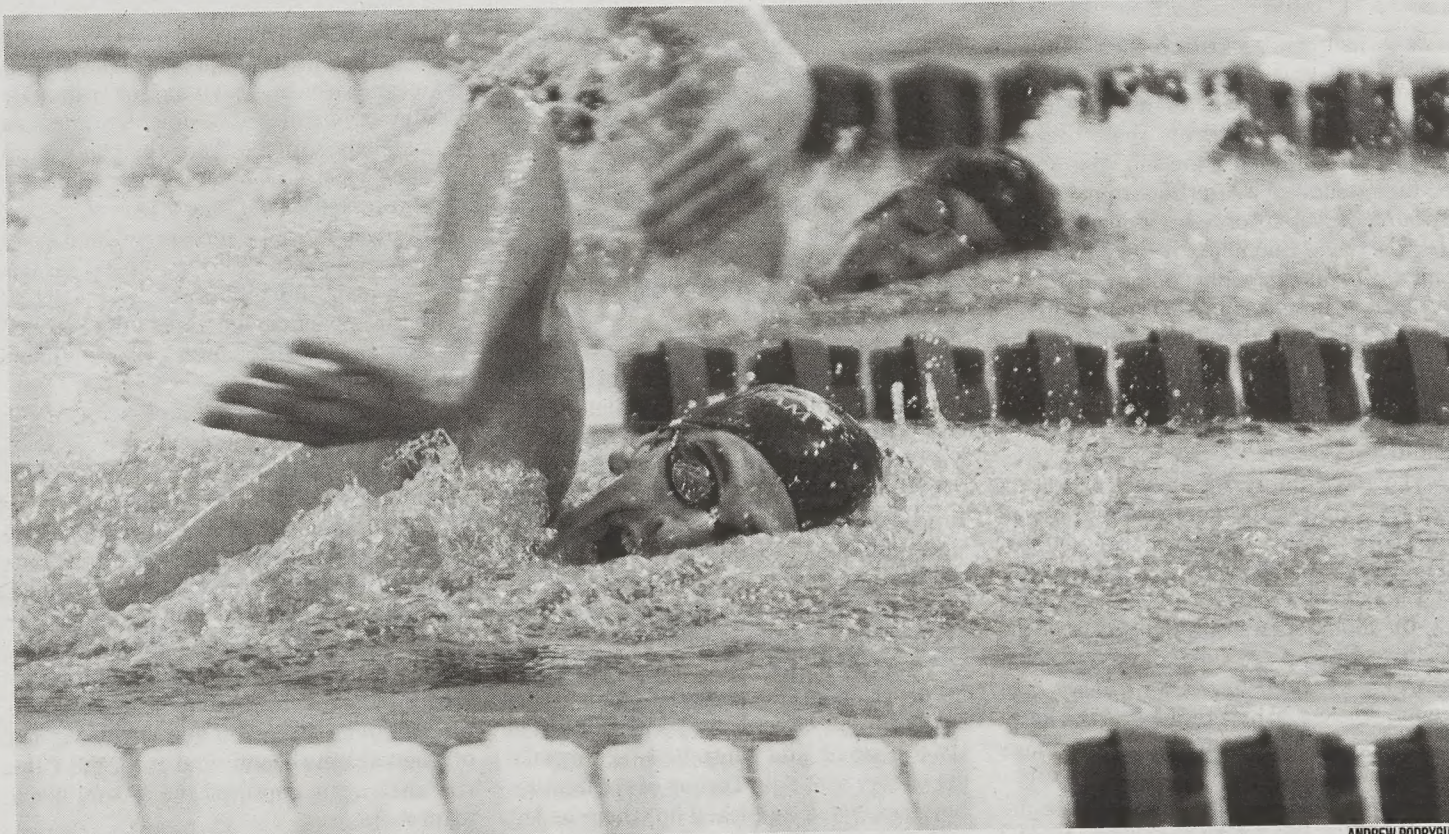
The Panthers took a lead early in the meet with back-to-back-to-back wins. Nick Keenan '14 won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:48.78, James Wing '15 won the 50-yard backstroke in 25.64 seconds and Chris Vandiford '15 capped off the run with a time of 28.16 seconds in the 50-yard breaststroke, giving the men a 54-39 lead.

The meet was close for a couple more events, but the Panthers again had a dominant stretch. Ethan Litman '13 won the 100-yard freestyle in 49.62 seconds, followed by an impressive victory from Kazu Asaga '12 in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 53.51 seconds. Then Vandiford and Patrick Li '14.5 captured first and second place in the 100-yard breaststroke with times of 1:00.64 and 1:01.68, respectively. Li would later win the 100-yard individual medley in 55.68 seconds, sealing Middlebury's victory.

Perhaps the most complete event of the day for the Panthers was the 200-yard freestyle relay, where Middlebury teams took both first and second place. Daly paced all swimmers with a split of 20.79 seconds.

Skylar Dallmeyer-Drennen '14 was the men's lone diving competitor. He finished second in both the one and three-meter events with scores of 233.40 and 236.48, respectively.

The women continued their imposing season with an easy win over a struggling



ANDREW POORYGULA

Sophomore Nick Keenan '14 races to the finish of the 200 yard freestyle, which he won in a time of 1:48.78. Both the men and the women won the meet against Union convincingly with scores of 174-124 and 227-67 respectively.

Union squad. Middlebury won 15 of 16 events on the day, only coming up short in the 1000-yard freestyle.

The Panthers got out to a quick 15-2 lead with a 10-second victory in the 200-yard medley relay, taking first and second place with ease. Andie Tibbetts '14 started off with a 27.82 second split in the backstroke leg and Union could do nothing to catch up to an extremely deep Middlebury team.

Middlebury had six different first-place finishers and seven events in which they took the top three places. Katherine Loftus '12 won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:56.47 and the 500-yard freestyle in 5:11.23. Tibbetts won the 50-yard backstroke with

a time of 28.09 seconds and later cruised to victory in the 100-yard backstroke as the lone competitor to break a minute with a time of 59.18 seconds.

Jamie Hillas '15 continued her excellent first season with wins in the 100-yard breaststroke and 100-yard individual medley. Nora Daly '13 also won two events for the Panthers, the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard freestyle.

Middlebury was equally as dominant on the diving side. Hannah King '13 won the one-meter event with a score of 244.58, while Colleen Harper '14 won the 3-meter event with a score of 261.60.

"The performances at the meet this past weekend gave both teams the

confidence and momentum we need as we head into our championship season," said Loftus.

The Panthers have one final dual meet before championship season, when they travel to Williams College on Saturday. The women will look to improve their win streak to six against the undefeated Ephs team. Middlebury will then host the Middlebury Invitational on Feb. 3 and 4.

"It has been great to compete at home the past two meets, and see our talented and energetic underclassman step up and contribute," said Loftus. "I have never been more excited to see how well everyone will preform at our championship meets in February."

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

MEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Hamilton **76-64 W**

The country's top team survived a scare from the Continentals and held on for the win.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Hamilton **43-41 L**

The women hung around but eventually were forced to endure a tough loss at the buzzer.

SKIING vs. Bates Carnival **Third Place**

A strong finish for the ski team in their first competitive action of the season.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs. Bowdoin **3-2 W**

The Panthers swept the Polar Bears over the weekend, accounting for five goals in two games.

MEN'S SQUASH vs. Williams **8-1 L**

Men's squash swallowed a hard loss to the Ephs after a decent weekend previous to that.

Track races at UVM

By Alex Edel

The indoor track and field team traveled to the University of Vermont (UVM) Friday, Jan. 20, to compete in a dual meet. Several members had good meets with solid first place finishes in five of the men's events.

"UVM is always a fun meet because a bunch more people start racing, but it's a low-pressure meet, this year only between us and UVM," said co-captain Julia Sisson '12.

Wins from the Panther men came from competitors in all but the senior class, paving the way for a successful future. Louis Cornacchione '13 won two events for the Panthers, first in the 500 meters, finishing in a time of 1:09.26. Fritz Parker '15 followed him closely finishing in second place with a time of 1:09.58. Cornacchione then was part of the 4x400 relay along with Peter Hetzler '14, Sam Craft '14 and David Parker '15.

The Panther men also had an extremely strong showing in the 3,000 meters as they took the top three spots in the event. Wilder Schaaf '14, Anthony Lee '13 and Greg Krathwohl '14 finished in first, second

and third place with times of 8:44.78, 8:44.91 and 8:50.87 respectively. In the 55-meter hurdles Kevin Chu '14 beat out fellow Panthers Taylor Shortleeve '15 and Michael Downey '12 to win the event with a time of 8.00. Garnering yet another win for the Panthers was Duncan Levear '15 who cleared the pole vault at 4.30 meters to take the event.

Although the women did not take any of the events, they took second place in most events and had some strong finishes. Both Mia Martinez '12 and Juliet Ryan-Davis '13 had two second place finishes each. For Martinez these came in the 55 meters and the 55-meter hurdles, which she finished in 7.8 seconds and 8.81 seconds respectively. Ryan-Davis found her silver medals in the 500 meters, which she finished in a time of 1:18.04, and the 4x400 relay.

"Although UVM was not competing with their whole team, we still had some good competition, resulting in some exciting races and decent times and marks considering the quality of the running, throwing and jumping facilities," said Sisson.

Squash falls to Williams

By Owen Teach

By all accounts, 2012 has seen a strong performance by the Middlebury squash program.

Only 23 days after starting the calendar year at a combined 1-7, the squash program has posted a combined 11-2 run to push the overall men's record to 7-4 and the women's to 5-5. Men's No. 2 Jay Dolan '13 talked about the rise of Middlebury squash in recent years.

"When I came as a freshman, we were ranked 17th in the country," said Dolan. "Now, after advancing to 14th at the end of last year, we are ranked 12th, looking to push into the top ten by the end of the year. The greatest difference between the team now and the team two years ago has been the depth of our ladder, particularly in the middle of the lineup."

While both teams can be satisfied with their performances, the men's team made the most of its opportunities since the Yale Round Robin tournament two weekends ago to climb to well above .500, as it now sits at 7-4.

The men's recent success continued with a victory against Amherst this on Tuesday, Jan. 17, with the Panthers defeating the Lord Jeffs by a final score of 7-2. Middlebury's top four carried much of the load, as Valentin Quan '12, Jay Dolan '13, Parker Hurst '14 and Spencer Hurst '13 dropped only a single set between them. Will Moore '14 and Addi DiSesa '12 also pitched in with winning performances.

Following the conference victory, this past Saturday then featured a pair of victories at home by the men's program, as the Panthers dropped both Vermont and Northeastern without an individual loss in either match.

While the men's team dropped only two individual match-ups against Amherst, the women's squad proved to be even more dominant in its encounter with the

NESCAC foe. Only two of the nine players even lost an individual set, with Amanda Chen '14 only losing 8 out of a possible 41 games in her three set romp.

Despite all of the success that 2012 has brought, the squash program ran into a formidable adversary this past Sunday in Williamstown, as both the men's and women's team fell to the Ephs of Williams for their first NESCAC defeats of the year.

While the women's team held it close at 5-4, the men fared much worse, falling to Williams by a final of 8-1. DiSesa (men's No. 7) posted the only individual winning effort in the match. Dolan spoke to the challenge presented by Williams.

"With Trinity being the juggernaut in NESCAC, Williams has been the faraway #2 since 2008," said Dolan. "Although our match with them on Sunday wasn't close on paper, the individual matches were competitive, proving to Williams that we're now a force to be reckoned with."

On the women's side, Elena Laird '12, Charlotte Dewey '15, Anne Wymard '15 and Anne Ulrich '13 provided winning efforts. Abigail Jenkins '14 also put in a strong showing, pushing her opponent to a fifth set before losing 11-6 in the final frame.

As it looks to rebound from the losses against Williams following the fast start to 2012, the men's side will face Fordham and Columbia on Saturday in New York City before wrapping up the weekend with a conference showdown at Connecticut College.

"With NESCACs less than two weeks away, the loss against Williams certainly doesn't discourage us," said Dolan. "Rather, it enlightens us towards the things we need to be working on to prepare for a seemingly inevitable rematch."

The women will only compete on Sunday, as they face Connecticut College in an early 11 a.m. showdown before a 7 p.m. encounter with Columbia in New York City.

Men's basketball has best start

CONTINUED FROM 24

and 13 rebounds and four blocks against the undersized, but athletic Cardinals of Plattsburgh State. The double-double was the 30th of the senior captain's stellar career.

Thompson added 14 points and eight rebounds — seven of which were on the offensive glass in his strongest game back from a five game absence over the winter recess. The seven offensive rebounds are the most a Middlebury player has had since Sharry grabbed ten offensive boards against Skidmore on Dec. 9.

"I ended up getting a lot of good looks, and I usually get those good looks, but this time I knocked them down," Thompson said. "I had a good game — it just takes practice."

Wolfen, meanwhile, had a superlative start, leading the team with 12 assists — seven more than the entire Plattsburgh team had.

"We shot great from the field and I just found open guys and they made shots," Wolfen said about his 12 assists. "I grew up watching Jason Kidd and used him as a role model."

For the guard from Woodcliff Lake, N.J. it's his second 12-assist game of the season and third of his career as he recorded the same number in the wild 123-111 win over RPI on Jan. 3. In fact only two teams this season — Tufts and RPI — have had more total assists in a game against Middlebury as a team than Wolfen had in the win over Plattsburgh. And the last time a different

Panther dished out 12 assists or more was Ben Rudin '09 on Jan. 17, 2009 with 14 assists in a 108-64 romping of Tufts.

Eleven different players recorded a basket in the game and Dylan Sinnickson '15 added a double-digit scoring performance with 10 points on a perfect night from the floor. The first-year forward from Sands Point, N.Y. made both of his field goal attempts and knocked down all six free throw shots.

Despite shooting an efficient 52.6 percent from the floor Middlebury struggled to pull away from a feisty Plattsburgh team. At the half, the home team held an eight-point advantage, despite limiting the visitors to less than 31 percent shooting from the field. At times the Panthers — and Sharry in particular — were visibly frustrated with the physical play of the Cardinals and the lack of calls they received from the officials. Matching the stoic demeanor of their head coach Jeff Brown, however, Sharry and his teammates maintained their composure and played through contact.

"Coach is always very calm," Sharry said. "If we're up 10, down 10, coach is always real calm on the sideline and that really rubs off on us so we're always really calm on the court."

Plattsburgh lurked in the second half,

cutting the Panthers' lead to five points mid-way through period. The SUNY school kept Middlebury out of rhythm with its physical play and athleticism before the Panthers came to life, spurred on by a number of fast break layups off Wolfen assists and a decisive three point basket from Thompson. The number one team finally pulled away with 7:33 remaining in the game with a 16-2 run that extended their lead to 70-47 with just over two minutes left in the game.

"It's really nice, of course, to go undefeated, but we're taking it one game at a time, because we know that's how you're going to do it," Thompson said in reference to his team's 17-0 start. "We just want to be playing our best basketball come February."

NOLAN THOMPSON '13

CO-CAPTAIN

Undefeated Middlebury hosts NESCAC rivals and 13th-ranked Williams (3-2 in NESCAC) on Saturday at 4 p.m. in Pepin Gymnasium. The Panthers have won 51 of their last 53 regular season games (including 23 in a row) with both losses coming to the Ephs. Then, after Middlebury beat Williams in the NESCAC Championship last season, both teams advanced to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament and came within two buzzer-beaters of playing one another for a National Championship.

"It's really nice, of course, to go undefeated, but we're taking it one game at a time, because we know that's how you're going to do it."

Women's basketball loses at Hamilton, edges Plattsburgh

By Dillon Hupp

Middlebury women's basketball dropped a heartbreaker at Hamilton last Friday, Jan. 20, losing 43-41 in a game that wasn't decided until a Scarlett Kirk '14 shot rimmed out at the buzzer. The loss means that the Panthers remain winless in NESCAC play, with an overall record of 4-11 on the season.

The Panthers and the Continentals battled back and forth in the first half. With the score tied in the early going, Middlebury rattled off an 8-0 run to establish a lead. However, Hamilton came right back with an 8-0 run of their own to put themselves again within striking distance. After Hamilton briefly regained the lead towards the end of the first half, Panther Laura Lowry '14 buried a three to ensure that the two teams went into halftime tied at 23 apiece.

The baskets were even harder to come by in the second half, as both defenses tightened up, neither wanting to relinquish another big run to the opposition. Play got even more intense down the stretch, with lead changes and ties happening on nearly every possession.

With just over a minute to play, the Continentals scored to take a 42-39 lead. Then, after a pair of wild possessions by both teams, Tracy Borsinger '13 found the hoop with 30 seconds remaining to cut the Hamilton lead to one.

The Panthers then fouled Hamilton guard Eliza Howe, who only managed to make one of her two free throws. Trailing 43-41 with 28 seconds left, the Panthers took the ball up the court but missed their shot with 12 seconds remaining. However, they were able to force a Hamilton turnover, and called a timeout with just five seconds left and a chance to either tie or win the game on the final possession. Good fortune was not in the cards for the Panthers, however, as Kirk just barely missed as time expired.

Borsinger led Middlebury with eight points in the game. Tri-captain Maddie Moreau '12 scored seven and added 12 boards for a decent day on the stat sheet. Katie Pett '13.5 finished with five points to go along with five steals.

"Our lack of attacking on offense allowed Hamilton to play more aggressively

on defense," said tri-captain Brittany Perfetti '12 of the loss. "We need to focus on our strengths and remind each other that we need to recognize and exploit our team's different strengths," she said.

Attacking on offense was no problem for the Panthers in their next game, a home matchup against Plattsburgh State on Tuesday, Jan. 24. In a raucous back-and-forth affair, Middlebury hung on for a 77-74 win in front of some very pleased supporters.

The Panthers came out sloppy in the first half against the Cardinals, committing four early turnovers and letting Plattsburgh convert their first five field goal attempts. However, behind some tenacious defense by Pett and steady ball-handling skills by Perfetti and Kristina Conroy '14 (making her first career start), Middlebury regained control of the game. Both teams shot extremely well in the first half, and went into the break tied at 37 points apiece.

Middlebury came out firing in the second half, and quickly established their first double-digit lead of the game. Behind some solid free-throw shooting by Kirk, who hit 10 of 10 in the game, and a string of three consecutive three-pointers from Borsinger, the Panthers found themselves up by 10 midway through the half. However, the Cardinals battled back behind star forward Kathleen Payne, who finished with 33 points and single-handedly kept her team in the game. Plattsburgh used their press defense to great effect down the stretch, and were able to tie the game at 74 with just over a minute left. The Cardinals would score no more however, and Perfetti and Sarah Marcus '14 both hit clutch free throws to ice the game in the closing seconds for the Panthers. It would not be final, though, until Payne's last-second halfcourt heave fell just one or two feet short as time expired. It was the third consecutive game for the Panthers that was decided by five or fewer points.

Middlebury travels to Keene State tonight for an out-of-conference game, before continuing NESCAC play this weekend when they host Williams in Pepin Arena on Saturday, Jan. 28. Taking down the Ephs would be a sweet victory for the Panthers indeed, as Middlebury is still searching for that elusive first conference win.

BY THE NUMB3RS

-11 Change in the goal differential between men's hockey's win 7-1 vs. Bowdoin on Nov. 20 and Saturday's 5-0 loss.

0 The number of Super Bowls that Tom Brady has won against Eli Manning and the New York Giants.

353 Calendar days since the men's basketball team has lost a regular season game.

1 Loss suffered by the women's hockey team since its elimination from the NCAA tournament last season.

.686 The field goal percentage for Ryan Sharry '12, who ranks third in division three basketball in the statistic.

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT GR8 EIGHT

| RANKING | CHANGE | TEAM | Alex's Assertions |
|---------|--------|---------------------|--|
| 1 | +1 | MEN'S BASKETBALL | Most consecutive wins to start a season—impressive |
| 2 | -1 | WOMEN'S HOCKEY | A hat-trick from Lauren Greer '13 and another win! |
| 3 | +1 | SWIMMING AND DIVING | The girls AND the guys were great! |
| 4 | +1 | SKI TEAM | Solid third place finish at the first carnival. |
| 5 | +1 | TRACK AND FIELD | Great wins on the men's side! |
| 6 | -3 | SQUASH | They really struggled against Williams. |
| 7 | | WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | It continues to be an up and down season. |
| 8 | | HOCKEY | 17 goals given up in the last 3 losses. Enough said? |

DAMON & DILLON

This week, Damon and Dillon will discuss what irks them most about two of the most passionate fan bases in America; New York and Boston. It only seemed appropriate in light of a Super Bowl matchup that will have the majority of the campus on the edge of their seats and the rest of us covering our ears with both hands.

Dillon Says: Where have ye gone, Boston sports fans? A heartbroken nation turns its lonely eyes to you. What happened to the glory days of yesteryear, when Boston sports were the loveable losers that everyone could pull for? As a native Arkansan, I will be the first to admit that I was whole heartedly pulling for the Red Sox in 2004. Who wouldn't? The narrative of their struggles was too good not to love. Bill Buckner, Bucky Dent, the Curse of the Bambino. Those were the days. As great as it was when the Sox won that year, I would take it back a million times over if I had known what would transpire from then on out. The Patriots establishing a dynasty. The Celtics and the old, er, big three taking home some NBA hardware. The Bruins winning Lord Stanley's cup. You used to be fun, Boston fans. You used to be relatable. Now? You're insufferable. This unprecedented run of recent regional success has gone straight to your heads, and I'll be the first to say that the pink hat doesn't look very good on an oversized dome. Sure, I admire your passion. I admire how you live and die with every game, with every Dustin Pedroia single, with every Kevin Garnett blocked shot, with every picture of Tom Brady with his hair drawn back in an almost-but-not-really ponytail. You know what I don't admire? How you've won something like a bazillion championships over the last 10 years and yet still continue to bitch about EVERYTHING. It's not that you win, it's that you're so damn arrogant about it. If you can't be happy, then no one can. It's exactly this attitude that turned my slightly-positive in a "How cute are y'all kind of way" stance on Boston sports when I came to Midd to an unmitigated, almost perverse desire to see Boston lose at everything that I've developed over the last four years. For the good of humanity, y'all need to lose. For the love of God, go Giants.

Damon Says: Ever been to New York city? Of course you have! It's the "Big Apple" and — in the minds of New Yorkers — the center of the sports world. Well, really the center of the world in general. Among others, here are my four biggest issues with New York sports fans: 1) Saying Yankee stadium is "hallowed ground" is like saying Goldman Sachs is sacred space. Having more money than everyone else doesn't make your 27 World Series more impressive, it just made them a whole lot easier to obtain. 2) While most New York sports fans think they're God's gift to the sports world, try again. It's easy to wear your pinstripes "proudly" when your team's salary cap exceeds the GDP of many countries. You all mope when the Yankees miss the playoffs. Try losing 100 games in back-to-back seasons with perpetual heartbreak. Let's see your pinstripes then. (Hold on Mets fans.) 3) You're a bunch of sell-outs (there you go!). Before you all start producing your season tickets, tell me how many of you gave up on Eli Manning after his first three mediocre seasons. How many of you (gasp) started rooting for the Jets when Brett Favre rolled into town and Gang Green looked like Super Bowl favorites? How many of you jumped off the bandwagon once the Giants started that fateful 2007-2008 season 0-2 and called for Tom Coughlin's firing? How many of you wanted Coughlin fired last season? Or at some point this season? 4) The myth that I hate more than any other: that sports are better when New York has a good team. Really? The NBA just completed its most successful five year stretch since the Jordan era. And you know how many playoff series the Knicks played in during that time? One. So let's dispel the myth that sports are better when New York teams are good. Because with New York sports and fans, the myth is always better than the matter. Oh and Dillon, we better find somewhere to hide-out until this blows over.

Dillon Hupp '12 is a sports editor from Little Rock, Ark. and Damon Hatheway '13.5 is a sports editor from London, UK.

Men's hoops' 17-0 start sets team record

By Damon Hatheway

The number-one ranked Middlebury Panthers have started 17-0 for the first time in the program's history. The Panthers recorded their 16th win of the season on Jan. 20 when the team traveled to Clinton, N.Y. for a NESCAC matchup with Hamilton (11-8, 1-5 in NESCAC). Senior captain Ryan Sharry '12 led the Panthers with 22 points and eight rebounds on 10-15 shooting en route to a 76-64 victory. Joey Kizel '14 followed with another stellar performance from the floor, scoring 16 points while making six shots on seven attempts. The sophomore guard also drained two shots from beyond the arc while totaling six assists.

"[Kizel] is playing at a high, high level," said head coach Jeff Brown. "He's playing at an all-conference level, handling the basketball, making shots, making intelligence plays both on the offensive and defensive ends. He really has emerged into a team leader on the floor."

Kizel's backcourt mate Jake

Wolfen '13, meanwhile, added 10 points, including a dagger three-pointer in the final minutes of the game. Middlebury's bench played a large role in the win, outscoring the Hamilton reserves 22-11. In particular, Jack Roberts '14 — playing in his most extended minutes since an injury during the fall semester sidelined him for almost a month — provided a spark with eight points while converting all four of his field goals.

"[Roberts] gave us a major contribution off the bench and it was the best he has played since being injured in the first semester," Brown said. "It gives the coaching staff more confidence in using him when he's able to stick perimeter shots and relieve some of the pressure off of other guys."

What ultimately separated the Panthers from Hamilton, however, was their ability to make free throws late in the game. Middlebury shot 88 percent from the charity stripe down the stretch to seal the 12-point victory.

"Being able to step up to the line and stick the free throw under pressure situations can be the difference between winning and losing," Brown said. "That's probably the biggest difference in our team this year is our ability to consistently shoot foul shots well. [Kizel] is someone we want the ball in his hands late in games."

Kizel, whose 90.8 percentage from the free throw line makes him the eighth best free throw shooter in division three basketball, leads a much-improved Panthers team at the free throw line. After shooting less than 66 percent from the line last season, the new-look Panthers are converting almost 75 percent of their free throws this season.

After the victory over the Continentals, Middlebury bested its 16-0 start to the 2010-2011 season with a 73-54 win over Plattsburgh State on Tuesday Jan. 24, giving Jeff Brown's team its 17th win in 17 tries. Sharry led the team with 20 points

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, 23



JEFF PATTERSON

James Jensen '14 rises to contest a jumper from Wesleyan guard Jason Mendell in the Panthers 65-62 victory over the Cardinals.

Breaking down the AD budget

By Damon Hatheway

When a Middlebury team makes a Final Four run — take the men's basketball team's journey to Salem, Va., last season, for example — the student body understands why the team is there. For example, the Panthers were one of the best defensive teams in the country and won the NESCAC Championship before advancing through the NCAA Tournament en route to Salem for the Final Four. Few people, however, understand how the Panthers got to be there. Did the team fly? How much did it cost? Were the student-athletes' rooms and meals paid for? Which leads to further questions, such as — how exactly is a team's budget determined? And broadly, what is the overall athletics budget? In a series of interviews with the Director of Athletics, Erin Quinn, and Kristen Anderson, Associate Vice President for Budget and Financial Planning, the sports editors for the Campus delved into the intricacies of how the athletics budget functions.

For the fiscal year 2010 — which all of our data will be drawn from — Middlebury had a college-wide operating budget of \$269 million. In comparison, the athletics budget was \$4.96 million, or roughly one fifty-fourth of the college's total budget. For context, other NESCAC schools such as Williams (\$4.75 million) and Amherst (\$4.73 million) allocated similar money to their athletics budget in the same fiscal year. For some, regardless of what other NESCAC schools are spending on athletics, nearly \$5 million is far too much to budget for Division III

athletics at a liberal arts school. On the other hand, 28 percent of the student body is made up of student-athletes and the athletics budget serves — to some degree — the entire student body, given that many coaches' salaries include their duties as P.E. teachers or club sports directors. The athletics budget also covers the swimming pool, athletics fields and other venues to which students, regardless of their participation in Middlebury athletics, have nearly unlimited access. Another important consideration is that roughly 25 percent of the athletics budget is covered by donation gifts, endowments and other revenue sources such as ticket revenue, meaning Middlebury itself provides only about 75 percent of the total budgeted money in a given year rather than the full \$4.96 million.

The single largest portion of the athletics budget — just over \$1 million annually — goes towards coaches' salaries. Every head coach at Middlebury is a full-time head coach in addition to fulfilling a second position such as an assistant coach or as P.E. director. In rare cases, depending on the seasons of the sports, a few coaches hold two head coaching positions. Bill Beaney, for example, is the head coach of both the men's golf team and the men's hockey team.

"All of our coaches have other duties, too," Quinn said. "You try to be equitable. Our coaches all do robust things. We try to fit what their skills are with what their second duties are. We have Dave Campbell, our men's la-

SEE DETAILED, PAGE 20

Women's hockey tames the Polar Bears in two games

By Mike Oster

The Middlebury women's hockey team played host to the Bowdoin Polar Bears as the teams squared off twice this weekend at the Kenyon Arena. The fourth ranked Panthers looked to continue their dominant season, in which they have only suffered a single loss.

The action began on Saturday Jan. 21, as the Panthers stormed into the first period with a 14-4 shot advantage. Despite this dominance and two power play opportunities, both teams remained frustrated as the game stayed at 0-0.

Despite failing to capitalize on a second power play, Middlebury took the lead 5:10 into the second period. Grace Waters '12 scored a goal after the puck deflected off of the Bowdoin goaltender Tara Connolly after an attempt by Hannah Bielawski '15. The goal

was the fourth this season for Waters and the 10th assist from Bielawski.

The Polar Bears managed to get on the board 13:47 into the third period to tie the game up, 1-1. Bowdoin's Stephany Ludy scored her seventh goal of the year off an assist from Dominique Lozzi, sneaking the puck past Middlebury goalkeeper Annabelle Jones '15.

A joint effort from Waters and Katie Sullivan '15 late in the final period ultimately pushed the Panthers to their first victory of the weekend, 2-1. The goal was the fourth of the season for Sullivan.

Despite this victory, the Panthers geared up for a tough rematch Sunday. The first period saw Bowdoin goaltender Kayla Lessard deny a Middlebury shot, blocking attempts from Sara Ugalde '14 and Sullivan. The Polar

Bears, however, managed to score the first goal of the game 3:30 into the opening period with a shot fired by Colleen Finnerty.

A power play for Bowdoin proved an excellent opportunity for the Polar Bears to strengthen their lead. Kayte Holtz pushed the game to 2-0 off of an assist from teammate Kim Tess Wanat. Middlebury finally managed to get on the board just over 11 minutes into the second period. Jennifer Krakower '14 fired a shot that rebounded to Molly Downey '13, who scored for her third goal of the season. Despite a five-on-three power play late in the period, Bowdoin remained ahead going into the third 2-1.

The Panther women remained offensive through the third period despite Bowdoin's lead. Ugalde scored the game-winning goal halfway through the third, redirecting a shot from Maria Bourdeau '12. The goal came with 2:00 remaining in the game and Middlebury up on a five-to-three power play. Maggie Melberg '12 passed to Ugalde who put it away for her eighth goal of the season. The Polar Bears proved incapable of recovering and the Panthers took their second win of the weekend, 3-2.

After the double win weekend, the Panthers advance to 11-1-2 and keep the number one spot atop the NESCAC rankings. The women played against St. Anselm on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at home and came away with a 4-2 win over Saint Anselm. Lauren Greer '13 stepped up and scored a hat-trick for the Panthers in the non-conference win.

The team will travel to their next NESCAC opponent, Hamilton, for a double header this weekend.



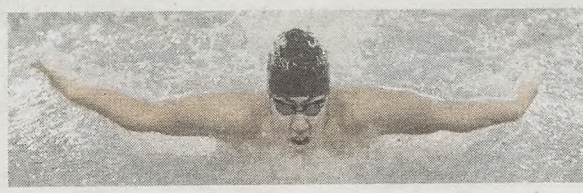
ANDREW PODRYGULA

Maggie Woodward '13 attempts to cut off Polar Bears' defender Kendra Sweet as she tries to control the puck over the blue line. The host Panthers swept a weekend pair from the Polar Bears.

INSIDE
SPORTS



MEN'S HOCKEY
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TO BOWDOIN
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